

# Inside Soccer

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**OTTIE** Abonyi, the man the Hurstville fans called 'Zoom Top', was one of our '74 World Cup heroes.

In the first part of a serialised interview **GREG STOCK** speaks to the great man himself, recalling the laughs, the

highs, the lows – and the stunning moments in a near twenty year career which saw its peak at the great St George Budapest side of the late '60s and early '70s – a side which is arguably the finest in Australia's long soccer history.

**A LEGEND SPEAKS ....**



**YOUTH** coach Les Scheinflug arrived back in Australia with a variety of people calling for his head.

The failure of Australia's Under 20 side to advance past the opening stages of the World Youth Cup may yet

cost him his job – but for now the long-serving Soccer Australia staff coach is digging his heels in.

But with the sound of sharpening knives just over his shoulder it may be a matter of time.

**LES IS GRILLED .....**

## KING DAVE

by Bruce Campbell

SOCCER AUSTRALIA will shortly announce the reign of the new Socceroo coach ending months of speculation within the game. And according to our man on the spot, the announcement will be sooner rather than later, with the likelihood that he will be installed in time to take control of Australia's match against the World XI.

"David Mitchell will be Australia's new coach," *Inside Soccer's* ever reliable source told us. "He is the best man for the job, there isn't much doubt about that. Soccer Australia had been toying with the idea of an overseas high profile coach but the truth is that they just don't have the money. Mitch will be a fantastic appointment for the game."

In little under three seasons since he took a caretaker role at Sydney Olympic Mitchell has stamped his class all over the game. This season he has performed a miracle at Sydney United taking them to within a whisker of the League Premiership on the smell of an oily rag.

"We haven't won anything yet – not a sausage," Mitchell is quick to say.

Putting the record straight on his aspirations of the Socceroo coach job he continued: "I have a job to do here and that is to win the League."

"If we can do that then I would have to look at the next job which is to win the Grand Final."

"But my main target is to win the League; in most other countries that is the big honour."

"I don't want to pre-empt anything to do with the Socceroo job, I just want to get on with the task at hand. It is a big task and it requires my total concentration."

Mitchell's attitude is as refreshing as the honesty which his players bring to the game.

It is that kind of approach which has brought him so much reward and now he seems to be on the threshold of a new horizon, one which will see him announced as Australian coach.

But first he has a little matter of winning the league to contend with; then it is the Grand Final.

And only then will he consider himself a serious contender for the top job; a job, which if our usual immaculate source is correct, is his for the taking.



David Mitchell: will the Sydney United coach be crowned King of Australian Soccer?

Photo by Carlos Furtardo

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# Socceroos may play two games series against Manchester United in July

By Paul Millar

SOCCER Australia is considering breaking with policy to pit the Socceroos against Manchester United in Australia in July.

SA has resisted playing the national team against overseas club sides in recent times, believing there's nothing to gain from beating one when it can easily be argued the club side was treating the trip as a "holiday".

But the lure of playing against the biggest supported and wealthiest club in the world has changed the opinion of the soccer authority.

United is heading for an unprecedented treble after beating FA Cup holder Arsenal 2-1 in a semi-final replay last week.

The Premier League champion now plays Newcastle United in the final on May 22.

It is also favoured to claim the league title again and is still in the European Cup.

United officials visited Australia earlier this month and met with Melbourne Major Events officials.

The Old Trafford delegation also met with representatives of Left Field Solutions which is running the Socceroos game against FIFA World XI at the official opening of Sydney Olympic stadium.

Negotiations are continuing over staging the game at the MCG while a match in Sydney would also be necessary to make the trip viable.

The last time the national side played against a club side was in 1993 when the Socceroos played Italian giant AC Milan at Princes Park, Melbourne.

It proved an embarrassing farce as the game finished early to allow the Italians to catch a flight out and the floodlights were attached to a crane and swung in the wind.

However, the earlier match at the Sydney Football Stadium was a sell-out.

Melbourne's failure to promote the match properly cost it several Socceroo fixtures over the following seasons with Soccer Australia officials unwilling to take the financial risk.



Australia v AC Milan at the Sydney Football Stadium. Now Manchester United could be heading to Australia for a two game series.

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# Parramatta and Kings bid for NSL

by Bruce Campbell

LAST Friday Parramatta Leagues Club boss Dennis Fitzgerald held a meeting with Soccer Australia and presented a plan for inclusion in NEXT season's NSL.

It was earlier thought that Parramatta, which is being backed by at least one NSW Super league team, would hold off until the Year 2000 but indication from a source close to the camp says that it is now all systems go for 1999.

"The bid is brilliant," says *Inside Soccer's* source.

"They have got so much money that the NSL can't refuse their bid - it is just too good."

"It makes a lot of other clubs look sick."

It was originally considered that Parramatta would enter the league next season only if Sydney Unuttered failed to make the starting post.

But the financial situation at United has picked up so much in the last few weeks that the administrator has handed back the day-to-day running to the club members.

The election of a new board would indicate that United also see their place in Australian's soccer's elite competition on a long term basis.

That would present Soccer Australia with a quandary - although the axe could still fall on a couple of clubs if they fail to meet the new criteria.

And the bid of Auckland Kings, which was expected to be officially announced late last week, has been put on hold for another few days.

Officials have delayed announcing details on the Football Kings, the Auckland-based soccer team set to enter Australia's Ericsson Cup competition.

The details include an outline of the Kings intentions, including headquarters and financial backers.

Kings spokesman Chris Turner said the announcement would be made by New Zealand Soccer as part of "an exciting announcement on the future of the game here".

Turner said some "operational matters" - including the appointment of New Zealand referees for matches in the Australian league - raised at the meeting between the Kings and Ericsson Cup general manager Stefan Kamasz and Soccer Australia chief executive David Woolley need tidying up.

New Zealand Soccer chief executive Bob Patterson said he hoped the announcement would be made this week, but it was more likely to be later in the month.



Wynton Rufer: looming as the favourite for the Auckland Kings job



# Les under the microscope

YOUNG Socceroos coach Les Scheinflug (pictured) braced himself for a grilling when he returned last week with his charges from a "disastrous" World Youth Cup campaign in Nigeria.

Scheinflug's position will be under review by Soccer Australia, but his contract runs until the 2000 Olympic Games and there will be no change before then.

The Socceroos never got past the group stage in Ibadan, winning their opener to Saudi Arabia 3-1 and then going down 1-3 to Mexico before a disastrous exit after being hammered 4-0 by Ireland.

In the game against the republic they were outclassed, exposed at the back and comfortably contained when attacking.

Soccer Australia chairman Basil Scarsella made it clear that the showing in Nigeria was worse than poor.

"I believe it was a disastrous performance and one that we will not stand for at that level," Scarsella said.

Soccer Australia will conduct an investigation to determine where the Young Socceroos failed.

"After every major event the performance of the individuals involved is reviewed and that's what we will be doing," he

said.

However, Scheinflug is also in charge of the Australian under 17 side which plays in the World Cup qualifiers in Fiji in a month.

"To suggest immediate changes would be irresponsible on our part," Scarsella said.

But national youth soccer coach Les Scheinflug was adamant that his position was secure despite discontent at the Young Socceroos' first round exit from the world youth championships.

"Have a look at my face, I'm smiling," Scheinflug told reporters today upon the team's return from Nigeria.

"I'm upset for the boys because I wanted them to do well ... but I think looking back, I knew it would not be easy."

Scheinflug said calls for his resignation were limited to one journalist with "a personal vendetta".

SA will conduct an investi-



gation to determine where the Young Socceroos went wrong.

Criticism has pointed to declining results by the Australian under 20 and under 17 teams under Scheinflug at world championship level.

Scheinflug had an abundance of reasons for the team's poor performance.

Poor diet, extreme heat, and the absence of star performers were some.

"Let's not forget we got the short straw here," he said.

"We played at four o'clock every afternoon, even Africans don't play in that heat.

"We missed two of our key players, young Rizzo who had ligament injury and a young fellow called Zelic who was kept in Croatia.

"Better nations than Australia got knocked out.

"England got knocked out in the first round, they never even won a game and the coach has resigned."

Scheinflug did not question his own coaching abilities.

"I feel so confident, I think I'm a better coach than I've ever been and the team did to the best of their ability in a very, very hard country," he said.

"I feel very, very confident that there will be no changes because one person wants a change."

Young Socceroo Simon Colosimo said the calls for Scheinflug to resign were very unexpected.

"It came as a surprise actually to the boys," he said.

"We didn't think anything like that.

"The boss had done everything he could off the field, it was up to us on the field and I think if we're going to look at pointing fingers I think it should be done on the field.

"Like most of the time the coaching staff is the culprit when things go wrong."



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Suites 4-5, 108 Railway Street, CORRIMAL, NSW 2518, AUSTRALIA

TELEPHONE: 02-4285-7480 FAX: 02-4285-7481

E-MAIL: [insidesoccer@hotmail.com](mailto:insidesoccer@hotmail.com)

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EDITOR: Bruce Campbell

LAYOUT: Jo-Jo and Stuart Bell

ADMINISTRATION: Susan Campbell

MARKETING MANAGERS: Steven Latta, Bert van Bedaf

CONTRIBUTORS: Bert van Bedaf (senior Victorian representative), David Arnold, Stuart Bell, Melina Boursinos, Alan Clark, Bryan Cokely, Ben Coonan, Nick Guoth, Stuart Jones, Quentin Poulson, Derek Royal, John White plus AAP, Reuters, UPI and Agencies.

CADET WRITERS: Luke Bear and Dwayne Pearson

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# Bruce Campbell

## Dead Passion

I CAN'T believe the lack of support at Sydney United.

Everyone knows that the west Sydney club have been beset by problems which eventually led to the bringing in of an administrator.

But Dave Mitchell's troopers have been absolutely outstanding where it matters to most, on the playing field.

But a meagre crowd of just over four thousand turned up to watch was being billed as the premiership decider last week against South Melbourne.

If that is the size of the crowd that they can hope for against top opposition when such important stakes are being played for then they may as well pack it in right now.

In the mid '80s the then successful Sydney Croatia in the State League regularly attracted eight thousand crowds.

Just a few seasons ago they would always pull in five or six and then up to ten for the cracker-jack fixtures.

And that was with a club which has been called mono-ethnic.

Where have all the mon-ethnics gone, have they deserted a sinking ship.

My inside info is that United will be there next season but is there any point?

What has happened to the passion which those supporters were noted for – is it finally dead?

## Alive and Kicking

IT'S FUNNY the way things swing around.

If you are old enough you will remember when movie going was the thing to do.

Then along came the video and the movie industry was almost financially crippled.

But surprisingly the rebirth of interest in videos actually sparked off the movie revival and nowadays the celluloid industry is bigger than it has ever been.

There are those who are predicting that the popularisation of the Internet will kill off print publishing.

But it just hasn't happened – and doesn't look likely to either.

Certainly not if the figures coming into Dunroon Publishing for *Inside Soccer* every month are any indication.

## IT'S ONLY AN OPINION

All that has happened is that the Internet is making football fans ever more eager to read more and more about the round ball game.

But it is a critical market and we have been forced to continually set an improved standard.

A drop in that standard was countered by last week's issue of *Inside Soccer* – rated by many readers and callers as the best ever.

Well, that should be just a taste of what is to come.

In the next few weeks we will be on sale in New Zealand.

That will mark the start of an expanded coverage which will feature regular NZ league action as well as international material.

But it won't be at the expense of our Australian coverage – which is already the biggest and the best in the game.

Another eight page section is planned for the not-too distant future as well – and the introduction of colour.

But watch out for our coverage of the Top Six – that will be a cracker.

And our Grand Final issue will be the mother of all issues – work has started on that already.

Then there is the World XI, then the State League finals series and of course our regular features on Australian clubs.

Print media dying? Maybe in some places but we are alive and kicking in sunny Corrimal.

## Dame Edna and the Board

IT HAS never been my thing to tell clubs how to conduct their affairs, but every now and again I wince.

Over the last couple of weeks I have had conversations with at least five

clubs and the subject of board recommendations on player signings has come up.

When will Australian soccer move on past the stage where board members want to interfere with the playing structure of the club? Surely the coach is the ONLY one who would know enough to be able to recommend the signing of a player.

Sure, the board members are probably better at business negotiations concerning wages and contracts, that is likely to be their area of expertise.

But why do they still insist on telling the coach who to buy.

It is about the last remnant of the lamington sale and chook raffle which still haunts our premier clubs.

After all, which committee or board member has ever resigned because the team isn't doing well.

They just want to sack the coach.

I've been involved with a few clubs closely, close enough to know the standard of many board members.

I'd have more confidence if Dame Edna was recommending players .....

## World Youth Cup Witch-hunt

ELSEWHERE in this issue is an article suggesting that Les Scheinflug may be pilloried for the failure of the Young Socceroos. I am sure that as I prepare this for print that the press will be full of stories on that subject – after all it is good copy.

But the reasons why Scheinflug failed are obvious to a blind man and his parrot – the players weren't good enough and they didn't have enough preparation.

If Soccer Australia had not blown all of their cash, and then some, on the 1998 World Cup campaign, now that WAS a disaster, then maybe he could have got a bit further with a fairly ordinary looking squad.

There were certainly no Mark Bosnichs, no Ante Milicic and no Paul Agostinos to savour. Instead there were a lot of good, honest kids. Ask any half decent coach and he will tell you that the more

average a squad then the more time is required to knock together the necessary set plays and drills.

Scheinflug didn't get that time. Before anyone writes in and waxes lyrical about the wonderful pre-tournament results consider the facts: Australia only played club youth teams in knock about friendlies. Maybe they were serious games for us but for the opposition they were only kick abouts.

Hardly the kind of preparation that is likely to win a major tournament.

Maybe the major investigation and inquisition being talked about should be conducted nearer to home – and maybe the question that should be asked first is why the team still doesn't have a major sponsor.

Over to you Basil.

## Super Aussie Selection

Congratulations on your new banner, very classy.

Secondly congratulations on some of the recent articles, especially the Two Danny's piece on Danny Tiatto and Danny Allsop and my namesake Daniel Pennisi's article on planning for the 2002 World Cup both 13/4/99.

The *Two Dannels* piece was great reading, not just because they have a great first name but because it shows your correspondent actually talked to the two guys and didn't just make it up from press releases, as I sometimes come across in other publications.

It must be great to have a fellow Aussie at your overseas club to keep you sane.

Sasa Ilic has fellow goal keeper Andy Pettersson at Charlton, Tony Vidmar has Craig Moore back at Rangers again now for company, plus there is Van Blerk and Murphy at West Brom and so on.

I could go on for ages but you get the point.

It's not as if they will have language problems to overcome in England, as Danny no. 1 said, mainly the banter and the food.

I don't know though, I personally find my relatives who are Liverpoolian hard to listen to, but a changing shed full of Scotsmen must be hell.

I wish the Manchester City Dannels the best of

luck next season, if the club makes it to the First Division or not.

Maybe you could fill me and my son in on just how the promotion/relegation system works, in English soccer.

I believe the outright top and out right last in the division above, swap over immediately, but what happens next.

Could a relegation zone club, say Aussie Goalkeeper John Filan's Blackburn, stay up if they beat first division Ipswich in some sort of play off system, or is it an automatic three up three down system?

Is this the sort of scenario you picture will have to become the norm here in Australia in the future, for the survival of the Ericsson Cup?

Danny Stapleton

Cooma NSW  
(The single biggest factor in the decline in playing standards in the Ericsson Cup is the lack of relegation.)

There are local league clubs even in Illawarra Premier League football who are paying bigger wages than some of the NSL clubs.

Although it doesn't always follow that the richest are the best it isn't a bad yardstick.

I maintain that Manchester United aren't one of the biggest because they have good players – rather the opposite that they have good players because they are one of the biggest clubs. – Ed).

## Nigeria '99

THE Young Socceroos early exit from Nigeria 99, has to be a great disappointment to fans like myself who expect a lot from this age group.

With the senior side failing with monotonous regularity to qualify for the senior World Cup, the Under 20s have for the last decade been the shining light as far as international competition is concerned.

Who could forget the exploits of Mark Bosnich, Paul Okon and co. in Portugal, and in 1993 when Australia hosted the World Cup placing a creditable fourth and increasing our international ranking and Australia's reputation at this level.

I don't blame the boys, I believe they gave 100% in appalling conditions, nobody should play in such heat at that time of day (organisers of local junior games, especially pre-season trial matches should take note).

Haven't they heard of playing under lights, or early morning if lights are not available?

It's better for the health of the players and the spectators get to watch a better game.

Individually talented as the Aussie boys are, as a team they were no match for the Irish in particular, we dominated possession but in the end all our moves were predictable and easily snuffed out.

It is obvious the time has come for new ideas

and this means a change in the coaching department.

There was a lot of talk about preparing in a cold climate and showing up just before the tournament, then after the loss to Ireland it was thought that maybe it was not such a good idea.

Well all I know is that if it's hot it's hot and it's not going to be comfortable out there no matter what pre-conditioning you've done.

Ireland were clinical, they let Australia wear themselves out and then killed us off.

Yes it's time for a change, as the results are just not there.

The Under 17s didn't make the World Cup, and players from that team will presumably provide the backbone of the next Under 20 side.

Les Scheinflug has done an outstanding job in the past but all coaches as players are (just ask Anthony Breaden) should be judged on their results.

At the moment there is a wealth of young coaching talent in Australia with the likes of David Mitchell and Frank Farina for example, both of whom have had international experience at the Under 20 and senior level.

Soccer Australia should act now to bring coaches like this into the national set-up and breathe some life and hopefully success into

the game at this level.

Phillip Nelson

## Nigeria '99

SO OUR Young Socceroos bombed out in Nigeria, bad luck, but none of us were surprised.

Yes, as has been discussed elsewhere, even on the SBS World Sports show, our defence wasn't up to the challenge.

Our goal scoring ability wasn't much better, but they did come away with a good win over the young Saudi Arabian side.

I hope we don't all become too critical of the young fellows who took part though.

SBS's Johnny Warren decided this was the easy way out and did so on Monday night.

These kids will all learn from the experience and I wouldn't write any of them off just yet, as future world class professionals, and as Socceroo World Cup and Olympic Games stars either.

We lost to Mexico, where soccer is the na-

tional sport and we lost to the Republic of Ireland.

Understandable too, Eire had eight of their squad who play reserve or youth league football, for Premier League clubs in England.

And a handful of others in the English First Division and the Scottish Premier League.

We were never seriously going to beat either of these two countries at this level, they were arguably two of the favourites in the competition.

The Aussie youth side, like our senior men's squad and the Matildas, need more serious international competition and experience.

We can't go on thrashing Fiji and Tonga 12 nil year after year, here in safe old Oceania.

Why not make the financial effort, by only playing against the Europeans and South Americans once in a while.

To really improve our players and our standing in world football, we have to become more

professional, I know it's been said before by every man and his dog.

At the moment our Socceroos have to play in European and Asian leagues to improve their game.

An irrefutable fact unfortunately, and with the financial limitations of Soccer Australia, it will be a fact for a long time to come.

Come on Australia, get behind our football administrators.

Let's find some money, some financial backers, some government funding, some sponsorship, something.

Let's try and do something to fix the crisis not knock a bunch of young kids for supposedly letting the country down.

Danny Stapleton  
Cooma NSW

## Kiwi Eddie

SURELY if Eddie Krncevic ends up coaching the Auckland Kings he should not be considered for the Aussie job.

continued on Page 5



My vote (as if it counted) goes with David Mitchell.

The only thing about him that could be a problem is lack of respect from the "big" players from overseas.

He may be as good a coach as Venables but may not command the same respect.

Do you think this could happen?

I would hope not.

If SA have Mitchell in mind (or any other EC coach) they should be making it clear before the clubs start waving the contracts around.

By the way Bruce, you missed the point of Easter.

It is a happy time because it was for Our sake. He rose again anyway.

A Rogers Harbord, Reserve NSW (Our front page story tells it all - but in this fickle and ever changing game it could well change even by the end of this week.

My experience of players is that they respect whoever is putting them in the team and lose respect as soon as they are dropped - with rare exceptions.

Mitchell has done as much as any other Australian player in history in terms of playing overseas - there has been no one more successful.

Easter, I still don't know.

I keep on thinking of this guy with big nails

through his hands and everybody running around below the cross eating chocolate and shouting Happy Easter. Bah humbug. - Ed).

#### Spin Doctors

THE NSL celebrates its 22nd year at the same time it records well over a million attendances for the first time ever, truly a milestone.

Meanwhile, the much vaunted NBL (Basketball) which was supposedly going to challenge AFL, Cricket and Rugby League in the new century is floundering.

The holders of the Brisbane franchise are threatening to hand the licence back to the NBL and Newcastle and Canberra clubs are teetering on the verge of collapse.

It wasn't long ago when numerous highly-paid so-called 'experts' were urging the NSL to reform itself using the NBL as its model.

These days the question is: 'Will the NBL survive in its current form until its 22nd year - if at all?'

Basketball and Soccer in Australia have a common problem - they are both huge recreational games without being traditional or mainstream, something no amount of slick marketing or PR can overcome - as the evidence proves.

Despite its numerous shortcomings the NSL has undoubtedly ad-

vanced the cause of Australian soccer no end during its 22 years.

While its immediate future is secure to ensure its long term survival and success soccer must build a solid niche market support base.

This is the cornerstone of Australian Rugby Union's success.

While aspiring for a share of the mainstream market they jealously guard and nurture their core support base because they know it is futile to try and go head to head with Rugby League and AFL for the mainstream market.

For years I have bemoaned the fact that Australian soccer was trapped in a sort of no-man's land, Catch 22 situation.

Maybe, just maybe, as the century draws to its end, and more by accident than design, Australian soccer has at last found its niche in the Australian sports scene.

The ethnic tide that has dominated the game for more than forty years is clearly waning - a most significant event.

Whatever the future, the NBL and its gaggle of overstated, overpaid spin doctors, consultants and other assorted professional advisers have nothing to how the NSL excepting how not to succeed in the complex and highly competitive Australian sports market.

Robert Melor

Bondi NSW

#### New Age Socceroos

I JUST thought I would have a go at picking a Socceroo squad to see us into the new millennium - much the same as Danny Pennisi in your most recent issue.

As he said a lot of the players he mentioned I have not heard of, so can't comment on.

But those that I have heard of, or seen play here in the NSL, at one time or another in the past or on TV on the SBS and ABC soccer programs, I can comment on and there are heaps of guys to look at.

The coaching panel has to include David Mitchell, Branko Culina, Manfred Schaefer and Raul Blanco with some role for Les Scheinflug who is indispensable, plus a starting squad of 35 players, combining youth with experience - a squad which includes nine current Young Socceroos.

Our Goalkeeping talent is well documented, with Mark Bosnich, Jason Petkovic, Frank Juric and current Young Socceroos Tony Breaden and Mike Turnbull, getting the nod.

I must admit to not seeing either of these two lads in action, so could have gone for the more experienced Mark Schwarzer and Paul Henderson, but youth prevailed (5)

Defenders are also hard



to decide on.

My favourite Kevin Muscat, even though not a youngster anymore, will lead a young contingent of Simon Colosimo, Brett Emerton, Steve Horvat, Robert Trajkovski, Hayden Foxe, Stan Lazaridis, Tony Popovic and elder statesmen Craig Moore and Tony Vidmar (10)

Midfielders are anybody's guess, but I wouldn't go past the following youngsters, Mark Bresciano, Jason Culina, Christian Care.

With the more experi-

enced, Ante Moric, Nicky Rizzo, Paul Trimboli, Kasey Wehrmen, Ned Zelic, Paul Okon and the underrated Troy Halpin. (10)

The Strikers again a mix of youth and experience, I would include Harry Kewell (I prefer him at midfield, but will wait and see how he matures), Mark Viduka, John Aloisi, Ante Milicic and Kosta Salapasisidis from Europe, plus locals, Mile Sterjovski, Joel Griffiths, John Markovski, Con Boutsianis and

Pablo Cardozo. (10)

I know I am way of the mark, but I would be proud to see any or all of these Aussies starring for the Socceroos, in the new Millennium.

Either at the 2002 World Cup or in the Sydney Olympics, in the last year of this millennium.

Most of them will still be young enough for the 2004 Olympic Games as well, worth keeping in mind.

Danny Stapleton  
Cooma NSW

1999

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## Aussie for Aussie

GOALKEEPER Andy Petterson played a full game last week for Charlton Athletic – deputising for another Australian in Sasha Ilic who is struggling with an ankle injury and the effects of concussion.

## The second Danny

DANNY Tiatto, WHOSE Manchester City story was featured in last week's *Inside Soccer*, played a full game as Manchester City won 4-0 at home to Lincoln City.

Manchester City, chasing promotion, is currently in 4<sup>th</sup> place.

## Benched

PAUL Okon remained on the bench as Lazio lost 3-1 away to Roma. Lazio currently leads Serie A.

## Carlton Under Review

THE Board of the Carlton Soccer Club has formed an On Field Operations Committee to review all aspects of the Carlton Soccer Club coaching, playing and support staff.

The Committee will conduct its review over the next two weeks, and will make recommendations to the full board of Carlton SC.

# Viduka hitting them for six at Celtic

Socceroo marksman Mark Viduka grabbed a double strike to lift Celtic to a 4-2 victory over Hearts in the Scottish premier league last week.

Celtic stormed home with Viduka's two goals and more from Norwegian international Vidmar Riseth and Dutchman Regi Blinker.

Viduka has now scored eight goals in seven games since joining Celtic from Croatia Zagreb.

Celtic, underlining its current run of form which has seen it drop just two points from 10 games, hammered Hearts in Edinburgh.

ous match in the 45<sup>th</sup> minute – after scoring in the 39<sup>th</sup> minute of Glasgow Celtic's 2-0 against Dundee United.

"I can tell you it felt very good scoring a goal in the semi final of the Cup," said the former Melbourne Knight.

"The atmosphere was great, there were about 45,000 packed in at Ibrox, and I'd say maybe 40,000 of them were Celtic supporters.

"I scored the second goal of the game, getting free behind a defender and taking a pass from Enrico Annoni who was playing right back - I turned, the shot deflected off a defender and it was

more action while in Croatia it was a slower style, more technical, more of a slow build up game," he says.

"Over here it's non-stop attacking but I've adapted to it OK, although I'm not really happy with my form.

"I think I could probably play another 50% better, but at least I'm scoring the goals.

"The fans here are great too, but everything's always fine when you score goals isn't it?

"But seriously, there are a lot of Celtic supporters where I live, and it's basically like anywhere else – everywhere you go you get stopped,

*The fans here are great too, but everything's always fine when you score goals isn't it?*

The reigning champions meet the current leaders, Rangers, on May 2 in a game the Parkhead side must win to have any chance of overhauling their Glasgow rivals at the top.

Viduka had been replaced in Celtic's previ-

2-nil."

Viduka has happily settled into life in Scotland, but while some things are vastly different ...some things never change.

"It's a very different style of football here, it's much quicker with much

they want to talk to you about football and the team, and they're very friendly."

Viduka's next stop in the Scottish Cup Final will see him line up against Socceroo teammates Tony Vidmar and Craig Moore



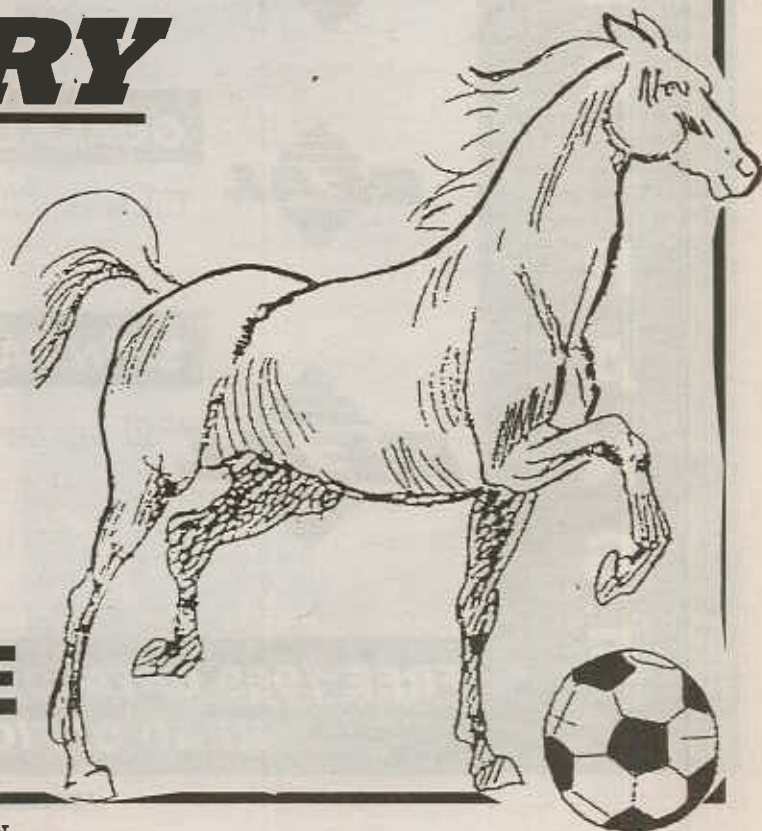
# MARCONI FAIRFIELD v NORTHERN SPIRIT

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*Does it make any difference to your game knowing a mate, and ex team-mate is keeping goal against you?*

Ante Milicic: "To tell the truth it felt a bit awkward when we walked out of the tunnel and on opposite sides.

"We've played together for so many years, I've grown up with Zeljko and off the park we're friends so it felt a bit funny.

"It's different to when you play in the national team, and it's really the first time I've played against someone I know so well.

"But we're here to do a job, and this is all part of that job."

*Did you have any direct shots on Zeljko?*

Ante Milicic: "Actually, I scored and started celebrating but the linesman had his flag up for offside.

"I looked over to Spider and he had this big cheeky grin on his face because he knew he was lucky and the linesman's flag saved him.

"Then about five minutes later I was put in a one-on-one position with him - he came flying out and I didn't really know what to do because he knows I'm a right footer, so I dribbled around him, kicked the ball and someone cleared off the



Ante Milicic and Zeljko Kalac were once big buddies at Sydney United. Recently they found themselves on opposite sides for the first time ever but the man called Spider is still smiling ...

## Soccer in Holland is more than red tulips

line - and again he gave me that look!

*Did you and Zeljko get together after the game?*

Ante Milicic: "Yes, straight after the game there was a photographer on the pitch so we took a photo together, and later on Dutch TV they were talking about the two Australian players and mentioned us playing at

Sydney United together and showed me frustrated after the goal. I've got to admit I would have liked to have scored one past him - they don't get much closer than the ones I missed.

"Wouldn't you know I had a drug test after the game so I had to wait for an hour, and by the time I got out, Zeljko was al-

ready on the bus, then off to Rome for a few days.

"But don't worry, I had time to tell him he was lucky and that if I'd scored I would have rung up half of Sydney.

"He had a good game though and to be fair it was a fairly even game and the draw was a fair result.

*Did you guys speak be-*

*fore the game at all?*

Ante Milicic: "We speak every second day - we only see each other once a month or so because our training schedules don't combine. He's about an hour and a half away, but it wasn't like a psyche session on the phone on Thursday - we didn't even mention the game, just 'see you on

Saturday'

*How are NAC BREDA sitting after this game?*

Ante Milicic: "Well, we're running last with a game in hand.

"We changed coaches again two weeks ago and we've had four trainers this year and changed a lot of players and basically haven't performed.

"We can play well

though, because the week before we played Willem II who had won eight in a row and thumped Feyenoord 4-1.

"And we played a 2-all draw with them.

"We've got a tough run home though - out of the 6 games left we play Feyenoord twice as well as Ajax.

## Krncevic fires back a broadside at Carlton

by David Arnold

CARLTON'S dismal end to the season has provoked club officials to conduct a thorough and comprehensive review of on and off-field affairs to ensure a repetition of the current season will not occur in future.

The review will cover existing player staff, the coaching set-up and transfers both in and out of the club.

Carlton part-owner and General Manager Lou Sticca and directors Stephen Hargitay and John Lunny will form the three

man panel overseeing the review.

John Lunny, a Melbourne lawyer, is a recent appointment to the Carlton board.

Carlton coach Edi Krncevic acknowledged the review but was rather

a telephone interview to *Inside Soccer*.

"We lost two players early (Grella and Vlahos) and never replaced them," he said.

"Simon and Marco also were off in camps."

Krncevic is alert to the

do their job, I'm trying to do mine.

"Anyone who understands soccer will know what we've done, you can't blame the coach for the results over the last two years."

Carlton's off-field prob-

he rhetorically asked.

The Auckland position has seen Krncevic's name emerge.

"I haven't spoken to anyone in Auckland," he said.

Krncevic is happy with the success of the club's

in excellent form this season, with the Colts winning the inaugural Under 16 Summer championship, and the Academy side has a 10 point lead in the Southern Division of the NYL.

Furthermore, seven

NSL debuts this season.

Isayin (Izi) Erdogan has also debuted, quite an achievement, considering he was a Colts player at season's start.

The impressive success of the youth sides has led to speculation Carlton may promote Jeff Olver from the Academy and John Di Quattro from the Colts to more senior positions.

Lou Sticca, who had not responded to phone calls at the time of going to print, is also known to be an admirer of Assistant Coach Fab Incantalupe.

*"I think it's fair to say the board is looking for a scapegoat."*

blunt in his personal take of the season.

"I'm disappointed in the way this season has gone, but there are numerous reasons why," he said in

possibility the board may decide to replace him.

"I think it's fair to say the board is looking for a scapegoat," he said.

"But they're trying to

lems also came under fire from Krncevic.

"I've had players come to me asking if the club will exist. Who do you blame for the crowds?"

youth policies and points out there were six youth team players in the game against Perth.

Carlton's Colts and Academy sides have been

Academy players - Nick Tolios, Ace Stojevski, Steve Martin, Tony Ouliaris, Adrian Cagalj, Sendar Pir and Adam Pongho have made their

## Knights to re-establish and honour heroes

By Paul Millar

A three-man Melbourne Knights delegation is in Britain to establish links with soccer giants Manchester United, West Ham and Glasgow Celtic.

The trio, including high profile chairman David Galbally, QC, is also studying the marketing policies of the clubs

which draw more funds through merchandising than gate takings.

Club president Steve Mandekic said the three had been in touch with some of the biggest clubs in the United Kingdom and were especially keen to create a relationship with Celtic.

"We are looking at changing our image and

the way we operate and believe we can tap into the ideas which are working in Britain," he said.

The Knights are especially keen to establish links with Scottish champion Celtic which this season signed former Knights' hero Mark Viduka via .

"We're looking at about half a dozen clubs but

Celtic is a good option, perhaps as a feeder club," Mandekic said.

The Knights have been a prolific supplier of class players for the overseas market with Viduka, Steve Horvat, Danny Tiatto and Joe Spiteri all making their mark in Europe.

They are back in the black after picking up

\$1.2 million for Viduka as part of an ongoing transfer deal with Zagreb.

The striker, who was twice player of the year in the Ericsson Cup and top scorer for two seasons, hit the net for Celtic on the weekend in the 2-0 semi-final cup win against Dundee United.

He scored eight goals

in seven matches for Celtic and appears to have settled in well at Parkhead after a delayed transfer.

Mandekic said the Knights aimed to honour the Soccerroo by naming a grandstand after him before next week's home fixture against Carlton.

The club will also name its President's box after

the late Jim Mackay who spent a decade with the club.

Mackay is best remembered for scoring the goal that took the 1974 Soccerroos to the World Cup finals. But he played more than ten seasons for Melbourne Knights/Croatia and starred in a side that was bubbling over with talent.



# WORLD YOUTH CUP - NIGERIA '99

## FIRST STAGE

### GROUP A

03-04-99	Lagos	Nigeria 1	Costa Rica 1
04-04-99	Lagos	Germany 4	Paraguay 0
07-04-99	Lagos	Nigeria 2	Germany 0
07-04-99	Lagos	Costa Rica 1	Paraguay 3
10-04-99	Lagos	Nigeria 1	Paraguay 2
10-04-99	Lagos	Costa Rica 2	Germany 1

### GROUP B

04-04-99	Kaduna	Ghana 1	Croatia 1
04-04-99	Kaduna	Argentina 1	Kazakhstan 0
07-04-99	Kaduna	Ghana 1	Argentina 0
07-04-99	Kaduna	Croatia 5	Kazakhstan 1
10-04-99	Kaduna	Ghana 3	Kazakhstan 0
10-04-99	Kaduna	Croatia 0	Argentina 0

### GROUP C

04-04-99	Ibadan	Australia 3	Saudi Arabia 1
04-04-99	Ibadan	Mexico 1	Ireland 0
07-04-99	Ibadan	Australia 1	Mexico 3
07-04-99	Ibadan	Saudi Arabia 0	Ireland 2
10-04-99	Ibadan	Australia 0	Ireland 4
10-04-99	Ibadan	Saudi Arabia 1	Mexico 1

### GROUP D

05-04-99	Enugu	Uruguay	Mali 2
05-04-99	Enugu	Korea 1	Portugal 3
08-04-99	Enugu	Uruguay 1	Korea Republic 0
08-04-99	Enugu	Mali 2	Portugal 1
11-04-99	Enugu	Uruguay 0	Portugal 0
11-04-99	Enugu	Mali 2	Korea Republic 4

### GROUP E

05-04-99	Kano	Cameroon 2	Japan 1
05-04-99	Kano	England 0	United States 1
08-04-99	Kano	Cameroon 1	England 0
08-04-99	Bauchi	Japan 3	United States 1
11-04-99	Bauchi	Cameroon	United States 3
11-04-99	Bauchi	Japan 2	England 0

### GROUP F

05-04-99	Calabar	Zambia 4	Honduras 3
05-04-99	Calabar	Spain 2	Brazil 0
08-04-99	Calabar	Zambia 0	Spain 0
08-04-99	Port Harcourt	Honduras 0	Brazil 3
11-04-99	Port Harcourt	Zambia 1	Brazil 5
11-04-99	Port Harcourt	Honduras 1	Spain 3

## SECOND STAGE

### ROUND OF 16

14-04-99	Kano	Ireland 1	Nigeria 1*
14-04-99	Kaduna	Ghana 2	Costa Rica 0
14-04-99	Lagos	Paraguay 2	Uruguay 2*
14-04-99	Calabar	Brazil 4	Croatia 0
15-04-99	Bauchi	Japan 1*	Portugal 1
15-04-99	Port Harcourt	Spain 3	United States 2
15-04-99	Ibadan	Mexico 4	Argentina 1
15-04-99	Enugu	Mali 5#	Cameroon 4

## QUARTERFINALS

18-04-99	Lagos	Uruguay 2	Brazil 1
18-04-99	Enugu	Mali 3	Nigeria 1
18-04-99	Ibadan	Japan 2	Mexico 0
18-04-99	Kaduna	Spain 1*	Ghana 1

## SEMIFINALS

21-03-99	Kaduna	16:00	Winner 46 vs. Winner 48
21-04-99	Lagos	19:00	Winner 45 vs. Winner 47

## THIRD PLACE

24-04-99	Lagos	14:00	L 50 vs. L 49
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## FINAL

24-04-99	Lagos	17:00	Winner 50 vs. Winner 49
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# won with Golden Goal  
\* won on penalties



## QUARTER FINAL ROUND UP

# Brazil and Nigeria out in shock weekend results

### Uruguay beat Brazil with controversial penalty

Uruguay knocked three-time champions Brazil out of the World Youth Cup on Sunday, beating them 2-1 on the back of a late and highly controversial penalty.

The penalty was awarded when Oscar Pellegrin theatrically fell over following a challenge by a Brazilian defender in the 86th minute.

Brazil protested vehemently before Nestor Canobbio converted the kick to send Uruguay in the tournament semifinals.

Yet Brazil dominated the first half and seemed set for an easy win when Fernando Baiano put them ahead in the 27th minute after a delightful one-two with Edu.

But the Brazilians missed a handful of chances and were jolted out of their stride when Jorge Anchen equalised two minutes before halftime, cutting inside and firing an unstoppable shot past goalkeeper Fabio.

Both teams then hit the

post in the second half before Uruguay's late winner.

### Mali upset Nigeria in World Youth Cup

Hosts Nigeria crashed out of the World Youth Cup on Sunday when they were thrashed 3-1 by unfancied Mali.

Mali, making only their second outing in the tournament's history, went ahead in the first minute after Mamadou Bagayoko struck after a goal-mouth scramble.

Striker Garba Hashimu equalised for the hosts in the 16th minute.

But the Nigerians fell behind again a minute before halftime when striker Mamadou Diarra scored with a curling shot from close range.

The Malians, from the poverty-stricken sub-Saharan region, were the stronger side.

In the 62nd minute, striker Bagayoko confirmed Mali's semifinal place with his second goal, a powerful shot from outside the box.

Mali will meet the winners

of the Ghana-Spain quarter-final.

### Japan upset Mexico in World Youth Cup

Underdogs Japan upset Mexico 2-0 in their World Youth Cup quarter-final on Sunday after stunning their opponents with two goals in the first 25 minutes.

Masashi Motoyama gave the Japanese a fourth-minute lead with captain Shinji Ono taking advantage of non-existent Mexican marking to head the second home 20 minutes later.

Mexico, who had four players booked, never showed any of the sparkle which helped them crush defending champions Argentina 4-1 in the previous round.

Japan, who now face Uruguay in Lagos on Wednesday in the semifinals, missed three clear-cut chances to increase their lead in the second half.

### Spain squeeze past Ghana into Youth Cup semis

Spain, the only European team left in the tournament, edged

past Ghana 8-7 on penalties on Sunday to reach the semifinals of the World Youth Cup.

The Spaniards were the more cohesive side and their relentless attacking left the African champions gasping.

They took the lead with Saludes Barkero's penalty in the 56th minute after Ghanaian defender George Blay upended a Spaniard in the box.

The Spaniards seemed to be coasting to victory before Peter Ofori-Quaye's last-gasp goal delayed their celebrations.

Ghana's Tutu Adu was sent off for rough play.

During the penalty shootout, Blay missed the crucial Ghanaian kick to send Spain into a semifinal clash with Mali on Wednesday in Kaduna.

Floodlight failure held up the game for 10 minutes in the first half after a similar incident halted play for 12 minutes earlier in the tournament during the Mexico-Ireland Group C match in Ibadan.

## PRE QUARTER FINAL ACTION

### Uruguay 2\* Paraguay 2

Nine-man Uruguay beat South American rivals Paraguay on penalties to reach the World Youth Cup quarter-finals on Wednesday.

Paraguay came from two goals behind to draw 2-2 during 90 minutes, only to lose 10-9 on penalties.

Striker Roque Santa Cruz, who scored both Paraguay goals, missed the crucial spot kick.

Ernesto Chevanton gave Uruguay a halftime lead with his third goal of the tournament.

Diego Forlan increased the advantage in the 50th minute before Santa Cruz led Paraguay's fightback.

Uruguay had captain Omar Pouso and right-back Damian Macaluso sent off for two bookable offences while Paraguay's Elvis Marecos was also shown the yellow card for a crude challenge before halftime.

### Nigeria 1\* Ireland 1

Nigeria, playing in the Sani Abacha stadium at Kano, scraped into the next round by beating Ireland 5-3 on penalties after drawing 1-1 in full-time.

European champion Ireland opened the scoring after 35 minutes in the Sani Abacha stadium through Richie Sadlier and the Irish dominated play for most of the first half.

In the second half, Nigeria applied more pressure and gave its a series of chances, finally resulting in an equaliser after 71 minutes through Pius Ikedia.

The match went into extra-time but neither side was able to break the deadlock and it went to penalties.

With the Nigerians scoring all their penalties, Ireland went out after goalkeeper Sam Okoye blocked Thomas Heary's spot-kick.

Ghana 2 Costa Rica 0

Ghana, which has been playing well all tournament, beat Costa Rica 2-0.

Owusu Afriyie, who plays for Malaga in the Spanish second division, opened the scoring in the 19th minute.

Peter Ofori-Quaye, the championship's leading goal scorer with three goals, put Ghana further ahead with a goal in the 79th minute.

A few minutes from time, Costa Rica was reduced to 10 men after defender Roberto Arias was sent off for a vicious tackle on Afriyie.

### Mexico 4 Argentina 1

Argentina, winner of the World Youth Cup on the last two occasions, went crashing out of this year's tournament today, losing its second round match 4-1 to Mexico.

Argentina left some top players at home because of club commitments, but Luciano Galletti shot them into a 40th minute lead only for the Mexicans to hit back with some spectacular goals.

Daniel Osorno equalised with a flying header in the 52nd minute and three minutes later Eduardo Rodriguez put Mexico in front.

Long-range goals by Juan Pablo Rodriguez and Luis Gonzalez gave Mexico a handsome win.

In the last minute, Galletti was sent off for stamping on an opponent, an incident which nearly led to a brawl between players.

Mexico captain Rafael Marquez was dismissed in the arguments which followed.

Argentina's loss came two days after coach Jose Pekerman, who led the team to its last two Youth Cup titles, complained that several clubs prevented him from bringing the best players.

### Spain 3 USA 2

Pablo Gonzalez scored twice in a three-goal, 15-minute burst in the first half as Spain beat the United States 3-2 in Port

### Harcourt.

Spain raced to a three-goal lead in Port Harcourt against the United States with two goals by Pablo Gonzalez and one by Xavier Hernandez but it then had to survive a second-half fightback.

Taylor Twellman pulled two goals back in the second half to take his tournament tally to four and he was twice denied a hat-trick by Spain goalkeeper Daniel Aranzubia.

### Japan 1\* Portugal 1

Portugal went out to Japan in Bauchi after playing the whole of extra time with 10 players and defender Ricardo Esteves in goal.

Its regular goalkeeper Sergio Barbosa was carried off injured and Portugal had used its three substitutes.

The new incumbent had little to do in extra time but was powerless to stop any Japanese shots in the shootout.

Japan converted all five of its penalties.

### Mali 5 Cameroon 4

In Enugu, Mahamadou Disa forced extra time with a goal in the final seconds of regulation, and ended the game in the 105th minute as Mali beat Cameroon 5-4.

Mali, which won its first round group after beating Portugal and



Paraguay's Marecos Elvis struggles with Alejandro Rodriguez of Uruguay in a match which Paraguay lost 10-9 on penalties after fighting back to draw 2-2 in regulation and stoppage time.

Uruguay, continued its run in dramatic style in Enugu.

The team from the poverty-stricken sub-Saharan nation, which has never got near qualifying for a senior World Cup, trailed 4-2 with seven minutes left.

Two of Cameroon's goals came from Gaspard Komol, who became the tournament's top-scorer with five.

But goals by Abdoulaye Camara and Mahamadou Disa sent the game to extra time and, in the 105th minute, Disa took advantage of a defensive mix-up to send his team into a quarter-final clash with host Nigeria.

One player from Mali and two from Cameroon were sent off.



**Despite rumours, the Cosmos are not ready to call it quits .....**

# Sermanni looking to the old for next season

By Graham Cooke

CANBERRA Cosmos, doomed to a third consecutive season at the foot of the national soccer league, is far from finished, coach Tom Sermanni said.

He quashed rumours the club's board is ready to throw in the towel.

"We are looking towards next season, I have been given a budget for new players," he said.

"Obviously it is not as much as I would like but it is quite reasonable given the club's financial position."

Sermanni took over the Cosmos early in the new year when the club was still without a point and has since steered it to four wins and two draws.

"I wouldn't say my performance as a coach has been outstanding, I have taken the Cosmos

from E-minus to say, D-plus and I have to improve on that next season," he said.

The only players guaranteed a spot in season 1999-2000 are reserve goalkeeper Grant Barlow, defender Toplica Popovich, and midfielders Ilja Prenzoski and David Aranz, who are on two-year contracts.

But he will be going all out to secure the signatures of the club's two internationals, Olyroo striker Peter Buljan and Young Socceroo defender Lindsay Wilson.

And he wants to persevere with the club's most improved player in recent weeks, attacking midfielder Ivo De Jesus, as well as first choice goalkeeper Vilson Knezevic.

Others in Sermanni's sights are tough midfielder Andy Ravanello, who has been playing in

Scotland and France, defender John Koch, now with Ryde in the New South Wales Super League, and full-back Paul Dee, who had been the club's most consistent player before dropping out at the beginning of the season.

While the coach still maintains places are there to be won, he will almost certainly have to part company with stylish Portuguese sweeper Amarildo Miglietti whose costly salary is likely to be sacrificed to provide more flexibility in the purchase of new players.

"Amarildo is full of quality on and off the field, but sadly the amount of money he costs us, while not unreasonable for an imported player, is a major burden on a limited budget," Sermanni said.



John Koch: Tommy Sermanni wants to reunite the veteran sweeper with his old club for next season

# Foster not a target for Spirit

AUSTRALIAN international Craig Foster is among eight players offered free transfers by cash-strapped First Division soccer team Crystal Palace.

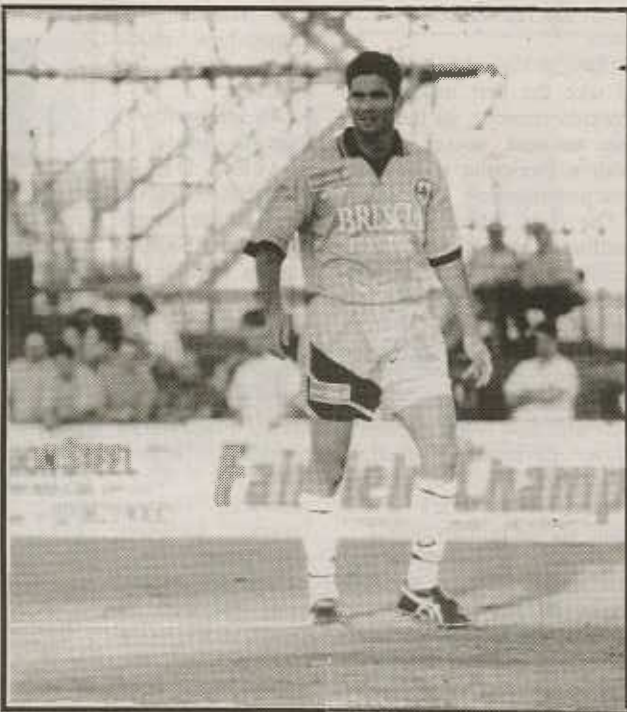
Another Australian Craig Moore, who had been bought by Terry Venables last October from Glasgow Rangers, was transferred back to Rangers two weeks ago for Stg1.2 million (\$A3.07 million).

Foster is among players who will be unloaded by Palace boss Mark Goldberg in an attempt to reduce the club's Stg22 million (\$A56.22 million) debt.

Every player who earns more than Stg60,000 (\$A153,336) a year has been forced to accept a 50 per cent pay cut and Moore and Foster had been among the club's highest earners.

The transfer offer comes two weeks after the official deadline and means the players can move but cannot appear for any other team until next season.

Foster is on a \$17,000+ weekly wage which would put a stop to rumours that he will be heading back to Aus-



Craig Foster: earning too much to head back to Australia yet

tralia to join Northern Spirit – a club which Goldberg has a financial investment in.

Spirit's top players are amongst the best paid in Australia with Graham Arnold and

Robbie Slater reputed to be earning \$250,000 and \$200,000 a year respectively.

However, that is chicken feed compared to what Foster has been earning at Palace.

## Bugsy's View with Marconi skipper Brad Maloney

MARCONI'S 5-2 victory over Wollongong was certainly a confidence booster at the right time of the season.

There are not many teams who are able to boast about scoring five goals away from home, and although it may not have been the most polished performance football wise, it certainly was one of those games where the result was uppermost in our minds.

There have been games we have played well in and lost, like the matches against Sydney United and Perth, but this was one game we knew we had to win and grafted out a victory.

Although we let Wollongong back in the game with two second half goals, I was always confident of the result once we took an early lead.

The team and the fans went home happy.

WE ARE kicking ourselves at Marconi for leaving it so late to ensure a Top Six spot.

But it is not something that we are not used to – last season we had to get a result against Melbourne Knights in the last game of the season to cement our place in the play offs, and the year before it was a similar story when we met Adelaide Sharks in the final fixture.

The pressure may be on, but we have proven in the past that we have the capacity to come through when it matters.

LIKE MOST people who watched the coverage of the World Youth Championships from Nigeria I was bitterly disappointed to see the Australian side eliminated in the first round.

Marconi had two players who came on as substitutes in that final game against Ireland – Danny Invincible and Christian Care.

Both played well once they came on, and I felt sorry that their only appearance in the competition should be in such a comprehensive defeat.

However, they will both learn from the experience, and in the long term will be better players for it.

While Christian will be back to help us in our quest for a Top Six spot, Danny will stop over in Europe for a couple of weeks where he will trial with Italian side Empoli, before returning home.

LAST week I was lucky enough to help out at the Marconi Soccer Camp.

Around 70 youngsters of various ages turned up and along with some of the other first team squad, I was involved in the coaching.

It was great fun, and some of the youngsters really impressed me.

Marconi run these camps regularly during school holiday periods, and I know all the Marconi players look forward to helping out.

I look forward to having even more involvement in future camps.

THERE may have been times when Marconi's supporters haven't had much to shout about, but they certainly made their presence felt at our match against Wollongong.

It should be a full house in our last game of the season against the Northern Spirit, and hopefully our supporters will be just as noisy.

I hear that a 'fancy dress' party, complete with fireworks, dancing girls and even a martial arts display is planned for the final game on Anzac Day, and hopefully any fireworks that go off, will be celebrating our qualification for the play offs.

Northern Spirit gave us an absolute hiding earlier in the season, and although I don't think we can play as badly again as we did that day, it will be a very tough game indeed.

There will be a lot more than just pride at stake in this game.

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# The Bill Turner Cup

AUSTRALIA'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS YOUTH TOURNAMENT

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## Spreading in to Victoria with the help of Eddie Krncevic

"I WOULD love to see the competition expanded more into southern Victoria," says competition founder, Bill Turner.

"Recently I had a conversation with Carlton coach Eddie Krncevic.

"He was in Newcastle for the Breakers-Carlton clash and was obviously busy but took time out to talk about the Cup.

"He says that he always reads anything he can about the tournament and just how important it is for young player development.

"Eddie was in an Australian youth team that I took overseas some years ago and he has always been a big supporter of youth football."

Turner has aspirations of pushing the schools youth tournament beyond

its current southern horizons and into the main stream Victorian school sporulation.

"We really have to extend far beyond the current limit of northern Victoria," he says.

"Eddie Krncevic has promised me his support and we shall look at increasing our level in Victoria in the Year 2000."



*"We want to look at increasing our level in Victoria in the Year 2000."*

## Champions Westfields get bye into Round 2

THE introduction of a \$20 entry fee has drastically whittled down the size of the 1999 Bill Turner Cup – but it will still be the biggest football tournament played in the southern hemisphere with well over 500 entries.

"Last year we had a record 738 entries," says Bill Turner. "This is our twenty first year and we are down to 500 plus.

"But it is a difficult time for people and I can understand the problems caused by increased costs."

The withdrawal of a major sponsor has meant that the tournament, played for Under 15 boys and girls school teams, has had to levy participating teams \$20.

"The sudden loss of sponsorship last year has

had a devastating effect," adds Turner.

"We could have called it a day last year but because of the support of a lot of hard working people we are now into our twenty first year."

Last year's champions, Westfield Sports High, has a bye in the first round of the Sydney Area group 5.

The Cup is played in 32 separate areas and sub-areas and is due to start all over Australia over the next three weeks.

Westfields will play the winner of the All saints Liverpool-Bonnyrigg tie in Round 2. Westfields have won the competition every time they made it to the final – 1998, 1997 and 1995.

The competition began

in 1979 when Belmont and Whitebridge were the finalists in a tournament of 34 teams. By 1981 that number had grown to 120 and then in 1993 in reached 523.

Runners-up Delroy High from Dubbo is drawn to play the winner of Dubbo High School and St Joseph's, Dubbo – paired together in a pre-qualifier.

Dubbo are one of eighteen entries in the Western New South Wales area.

Westfields Sports High beat Delroy High School in a thrilling final last year with the golden goal finally giving them a 2-1 win.

This year the final is set to be played at Newcastle on September 8. The semi finals are also played in Newcastle the day before.

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## YOUR MATCH REPORTS & DETAILS

Inside Soccer invites all participating schools to supply profile stories, match reports and photographs of your exploits in the 1999 Bill Turner Cup. This might be the chance for that budding journalist or photographer at your school to get into print.

Contact details: page 3 Deadlines: Friday 12 noon

## United's way back

By Ted Simmons

SYDNEY United is preparing to take the first major steps towards ensuring its future in the national soccer league with a five-point reconstruction programme.

The club, which has been battling financial and player problems for the past two seasons, is determined to use this season's remarkable form as a springboard to staying in the Ericsson Cup.

Restructuring of administration with new board members, player payments, marketing, sponsorship and completion of the Edensor Park grandstand are the primary points.

Secretary Nick Vrabac said that under the new arrangements all players, past and present, will be paid any monies owing and current players will be paid each week.

"All back pay will be paid once the debts to the players have been verified with the club's administrator and only a few players are still outstanding," Vrabac said.

"We have already started negotiating with all of the players for next season.

"The board will have a budget soon and by the end of

this season will know how much money will be available.

"An approach will then be made to coach David Mitchell to recommend which players to keep because players have to be signed by June 30 otherwise they become free agents."

The new board will be led by Marko Franovic as president, Robert Krslovic vice-president, Marijan Devic treasurer and Vrabac.

Plans are already being prepared on fund raising schemes and the amount raised, combined with sponsorship and gate money, will determine how many new players can be bought.

Vrabac said an arrangement had been made between creditors and the club administrator which will go a long way towards helping the club overcome its financial problems.

"The club has one year to clear all of its debts and we'll



United star Davie Barrett

also have some money coming from overseas clubs who have signed some of our players," he said.

"We're looking at introducing corporate sponsorship and life memberships as part of fund raising and broadening our base in the district through local juniors.

"It has to be the road back for Sydney United."



# He was so fast that they called him ZOOM TOP .... but he could play, as well and in action packed career of nearly twenty years OTTIE ABONYI etched his name into the history books as an AUSSIE LEGEND

Special Interview with  
GREG STOCK

GS: Members of the 1974 World Cup side made a lap of honour of the M.C. G. before the World Cup qualifier against Iran. In front of 85,000 how did that feel?

AA: "It was an enormous buzz. I'd never imagined it to be so great."

"Just to come out and see 90,000 people acknowledging what we achieved. And of course that was the first time since '74 so 24 years had gone by without much notice and then all of a sudden this recognition was a tremendous buzz."

GS: Do you feel it's a bit ordinary that every four years the Australian media all of a sudden get interested in the 1974 team and bring you together but between times they forget about you all a bit?

AA: "This was the first time in twenty four years that they've actually bought us together."

"It's an unfortunate thing I suppose but as far as I am concerned this was one of the best weekends of my life."

"To be able to see these guys again was tremendous."

"The move by the Australian Soccer Federation was more than appreciated."

"But like you said I wish it was more often, but that's the way it goes."

GS: You have got a Soccer Australia gold pass?

AA: "No I haven't. No."

GS: You know that you are entitled to one.

AA: "I believe so. I hear all these stories but I never actually see any of it."

"What we did get about ten years ago was a plaque which means that if you, say for argument's sake played twenty five internationals for Australia you got a bronze plaque, if you played fifty internationals, up to fifty you in other words you got a silver plaque, and if you played fifty or plus internationals you got a gold plaque."

"That's the only thing we were given about ten years ago."

GS: A little recognition for the many years of service to the Socceroos.

AA: "We were promised a gold medal after the '74 world cup and that was twenty four years ago and



Attila Abonyi: one of the legends of Australian soccer during the 1960s and 70s

we're still waiting for it."

GS: You were born in Hungary.

AA: "That's right, yes"

GS: And you came to Australia as a ten year old.

AA: "Ten and a half in '56. We left Hungary after the revolution."

GS: Did you play much in Hungary as a kid?

AA: "No I couldn't because back in the 50's you couldn't play junior football competitively until the age of twelve."

"You had to be twelve to be able to play competitive football, now all the football you learnt was played in parks and schools or wherever, but you could not actually play for a club like here."

"I started playing at the age of eleven for a little club called St. Kilda in the under 12's."

"I was eleven but it was the under twelve group and I was there for two, two and a half years."

"And from there I moved to a club called Melbourne which was a Hungarian club based in Melbourne and it was called Melbourne Hungaria."

"And I went there at the age of fourteen and there I played in the under sixteens."

"Next year I was fifteen and I started playing in the under eighteens and a month before my sixteenth birthday which was July of 1962, I made first grade for the same club of course, the senior side."

"That was in '62."

GS: And right through your early years you were always a forward.

AA: "Always, yeah. I hated defending (laughing). I love scoring goals."

GS: Sounds like a lot of forwards I know.

AA: "Yeah all my life I had to be around near the goal mouth, just one of those things you grow up with as a kid."

"Scoring goals has always (been) my number one aim if you like."

"To be honest with you looking back on it now, I don't know how a guy can go twenty or thirty years playing as say a right full-back or left full-back."

"Oh geeze, not my cup of tea (laughing). Always as a right winger or inside forward."

GS: Do remember much about your debut in first grade with Melbourne Hungaria?

AA: "Yes I certainly do. It was July, I can't remember the actual date, but it was July of '62 at the showgrounds in Melbourne against George Cross."

GS: Did you score that day?

AA: "Nah we drew 1-1. I was petrified. I wasn't even sixteen and I played against one of the best full-backs at that stage in Australia called Freddie Falzon."

"Fred Falzon played for Victoria a number of times and I even think he played for Malta at full international level."

"He was one of my idols."

GS: Did you maintain regular first team selection at that stage?

AA: "Yeah from then on I played first grade right

through."

GS: You didn't make your Socceroo debut until 1967. Did you play many representative matches for Victoria leading up to that?

AA: "Oh yeah, '63 was the first one."

GS: You would have only been sixteen.

AA: "Nearly seventeen, put it that way. The first one I played was in Adelaide against South Australia."

"And in '64 (it) was my first time ever against an Italian club called Roma. That was in '64, Roma in Melbourne."

"And probably in the same year in '64, a Russian team by the name of Torpedo."

"They came out and I played in that too."

"And from then on it just went on."

GS: And were you scoring goals regularly at that stage to make rep selection easier?

AA: "Well you know, you're a striker and that's what you're in there for."

"If you're not scoring you're not playing."

"But yeah, basically that my introduction into representative football through playing for Victoria and then gradually as you said I was lucky enough to get selected

against Scotland."

GS: You remember that match?

AA: "Yep, well there was three games. The first was in Sydney, the second was in Adelaide and the third was in Melbourne."

"Now the first two games I didn't even get on the bench."

"There was a squad of twenty two players playing three tests against Scotland and I was selected to play in the final game in Melbourne."

"Which I s'pose the fact that I was still living in Melbourne at the time, psychologically was a great boost because it was in front of my home crowd if you like."

"So I am sure that was purposely done if you know what I mean."

GS: You started in that match?

AA: "Yep. Right from the word go."

"We had a guy called Joe Venglos who was the coach at the time and I am pretty sure that had a lot to do with the me being from Melbourne, and I was fairly young and (my) home town there wouldn't be a lot of nerves there, so it was great."

"Good introduction put it that way."

## CAREER VACANCIES with DUNTROON PUBLISHING

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PART 1  
continued  
next week



MARK BOSNICH,  
ZELJKO KALAC and now  
PAUL HENDERSON.

They all have one thing  
in common, tuition by  
goalkeeping coach Steve  
Watson.

In this article BEN  
COONAN takes a look at  
the young keeper who  
has kept Peter Blazincic  
and John Perosh on the  
sidelines all season and  
is in running for the  
NSL's prestigious Goal-  
keeper of the Year  
award.

# IT'S JUST FINAL'S FOOTBALL; ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN

by Ben Coonan

TO MANY Australian  
soccer fans Paul  
Henderson is already a  
household name.

The Northern Spirit  
goalkeeper has per-  
formed well beyond  
expectation in his debut  
season and has formed  
a cult following on the  
North Shore.

Henderson was  
signed as a participant  
in the new apprentice  
scheme which the  
Spirit have adopted  
with sensational bene-  
fits.

"I was playing State  
League for Sutherland

and our president Rich-  
ard Masie organised a  
match for Graham Arnold  
to come and watch me  
play," recalls Henderson.

"I was playing against  
Ryde at Gabbie Stadium,  
and Graham Arnold and  
Steve Watson, the goal-  
keeper coach, were both  
there and they talked to  
me after the game and  
offered me an apprentice-  
ship."

Henderson has never  
looked back since signing  
a contract which would  
see him play third fiddle  
to well established Na-  
tional League goalkeep-  
ers John Perosh and Peter  
Blazincic.

"I found that being an  
apprentice didn't bother  
me at all," he says.

"I'm playing with the  
likes of Robbie Slater  
and Graham Arnold, and  
I'd be thrilled to be asso-  
ciated in the same club."

Now he is the only  
Northern Spirit squad  
member to play in every  
match so far this season.

He remembers his de-  
but against Sydney  
Olympic at North Syd-  
ney Oval in front of  
18,965 people as his  
most memorable.

"Even though we lost it  
was a big occasion.

"Being the first goal-  
keeper in the starting line

up ever for Northern  
Spirit and in front of  
20,000 people - I'd have  
to say that would be the  
most memorable for  
sure."

The Northern Spirit  
supporters soon took a  
shine to their star keeper  
and now echoes of  
"Hendo-o, Hendo-o" can  
be heard from many a  
mile whenever he touches  
the ball.

Henderson has repaid  
their faith with flawless  
performances one after  
another.

"It's always a good  
incentive to play well in  
front of your home  
crowd," he adds.

"With support behind  
me it's a very exciting  
feeling."

Henderson has now  
well and truly established  
himself as a class keeper  
and one that could very  
well take out the Ericsson  
Cup goalkeeper of the  
year award, following in  
the footsteps of his idol  
Mark Bosnich - another  
Steve Watson protege.

"Mark Bosnich is my  
most admired goalkeeper,  
for what he's done for  
Australian soccer," says  
Henderson.

"How he performs is  
what I look up to."

Many soccer folk  
around Australia would

no doubt believe that  
Paul Henderson is also  
capable of a very prestig-  
ious career.

He has already  
achieved much in his  
short career and many  
believe the best is yet to  
come.

"I would like to keep  
playing in Australia for  
another few seasons, and  
establish myself as one of  
the better keepers in the  
National League," says a  
modest Northern Spirit  
goalie who has two ex-  
cellent keepers already  
waiting in his shadow.

"Then, I think it's every  
player's dream to go over-  
seas and represent their

country so hopefully  
I'll get the chance to do  
that.

Not many will ques-  
tion that overseas fame  
is the 22-year-old's  
destiny, but for now he  
is concentrated on see-  
ing Northern Spirit  
finish their inaugural  
season on a high note,  
with a good show in  
the finals series.

"I think on any day  
we can beat any team,"  
says a confident Paul  
Henderson.

"We played South  
Melbourne and beat  
them. It's just finals  
football anything can  
happen."

## We are the best; Beckenbauer boosts Germany's World Cup bid

By Patrick Vignal

FRANZ Beckenbauer  
believes Germany is the  
best place to stage the  
2006 World Cup finals  
and is confident FIFA  
will eventually agree with  
him.

"The executive commit-  
tee (of FIFA) knows that  
Germany is the ideal  
choice," said Beckenbauer,  
who heads the  
German candidacy.

"It is in the heart of  
Europe, we are a soccer  
nation, the political and  
economic situations are  
stable and we've got the  
infrastructure.

"Everything is perfect."

But the most popular  
and influential personal-  
ity in German soccer also  
considers South Africa to  
be slightly ahead at pres-  
ent in the race which will  
end in one year's time  
when the world govern-  
ing body names the win-  
ning bid.

"South Africa has a  
strong chance because  
Africa has never hosted a  
World Cup and that's a  
very strong argument,"  
said Beckenbauer, aware  
that several leading FIFA  
officials, including  
president Sepp Blatter,  
think that way.

The Germans are so  
worried about South Af-

rica that it suggested a  
deal under which the  
South Africans would  
withdraw from the 2006  
race and get financial and  
technical support from  
Germany in a bid for the  
following finals.

"Both Germany and  
England have tried to buy  
us out, which must mean  
we are a very viable  
prospect, but we have  
indicated to them that we  
are not for sale," was the  
reply of South Africa's  
bid chief Danny Jordaan.

Beckenbauer also fears  
England and thinks Bra-  
zil might play a role.

"England started early  
and is very aggressive in  
its bid, which has plenty  
of support in its country,  
but we have gained a lot  
of ground on them  
lately," he said.

Bidding as well are  
four other African na-  
tions - Egypt, Ghana,  
Nigeria and Morocco -  
all regarded as outsiders.

Germany officially de-  
clared its bid last Novem-  
ber and added weight to  
it the following month by  
putting Beckenbauer in  
charge.

The man has charisma,  
knows all about sports  
politics and his prestig-  
ious name can open  
many doors.

His first move was to

press for a nationwide  
effort.

"Politicians, the For-  
eign Ministry, ambassa-  
dors in foreign countries  
and German companies  
with activities worldwide  
must all support our bid,"  
he said at the beginning  
of this year.

Weeks later he an-  
nounced that Thomas  
Bach, a leading German  
member of the Interna-  
tional Olympic Commit-  
tee (IOC), would act as  
an adviser.

Still officially the presi-  
dent of Bayern Munich,  
Beckenbauer recently has  
devoted most of his time  
to advertising the German  
bid, doing a lot of travel-  
ling, notably to the Mid-  
dle East.

"The idea is to con-  
vince everybody in a  
friendly way that we have  
the best arguments," he  
said.

Beckenbauer and Ger-  
man Soccer Federation  
(DFB) president Egidius  
Braun cleared a major  
hurdle when they per-  
suaded Germany's Fi-  
nance Ministry to meet a  
demand by FIFA that the  
huge revenue the tourna-  
ment would generate  
should not be taxed in the  
host country.

"We would have had to  
forget about the whole



thing if we had not ob-  
tained that," Beckenbauer  
said.

More obstacles lie  
ahead, the major one be-  
ing to convince FIFA that  
there will be no crowd  
trouble in Germany.

A French policeman  
was brutally beaten up by  
German hooligans during  
last year's World Cup  
in France and the trial of  
four suspected to have  
taken part in the attack  
was due to open on  
April 30 in the German  
city of Essen.

The German bid has  
clearly gained momentum

over the past few months.  
Berlin's stadium, built  
by Adolf Hitler's Nazis  
for the 1936 Olympics,  
is on track for a  
major overhaul.

Germany's other Olym-  
pic stadium, erected in  
Munich for the 1972  
Games, should also un-  
dergo a facelift as well as  
several other facilities  
around the country.

Berlin and Munich  
would fight for the privi-  
lege of hosting the open-  
ing ceremony and the  
final.

For long the undisputed  
number one footballing

nation in Europe, Ger-  
many is going through a  
deep crisis which was  
underlined by its shock  
World Cup quarter-final  
defeat to Croatia last  
northern summer.

The likes of Juergen  
Klinsmann, Lothar Mat-  
thaeus and Jurgen Kohler  
have retired or are on  
the way out and their  
replacements are not ob-  
vious.

German clubs have  
failed to invest in school-  
ing young talent and the  
domestic championship  
is far from being as  
wealthy and as attractive

as the Italian, Spanish or  
English leagues.

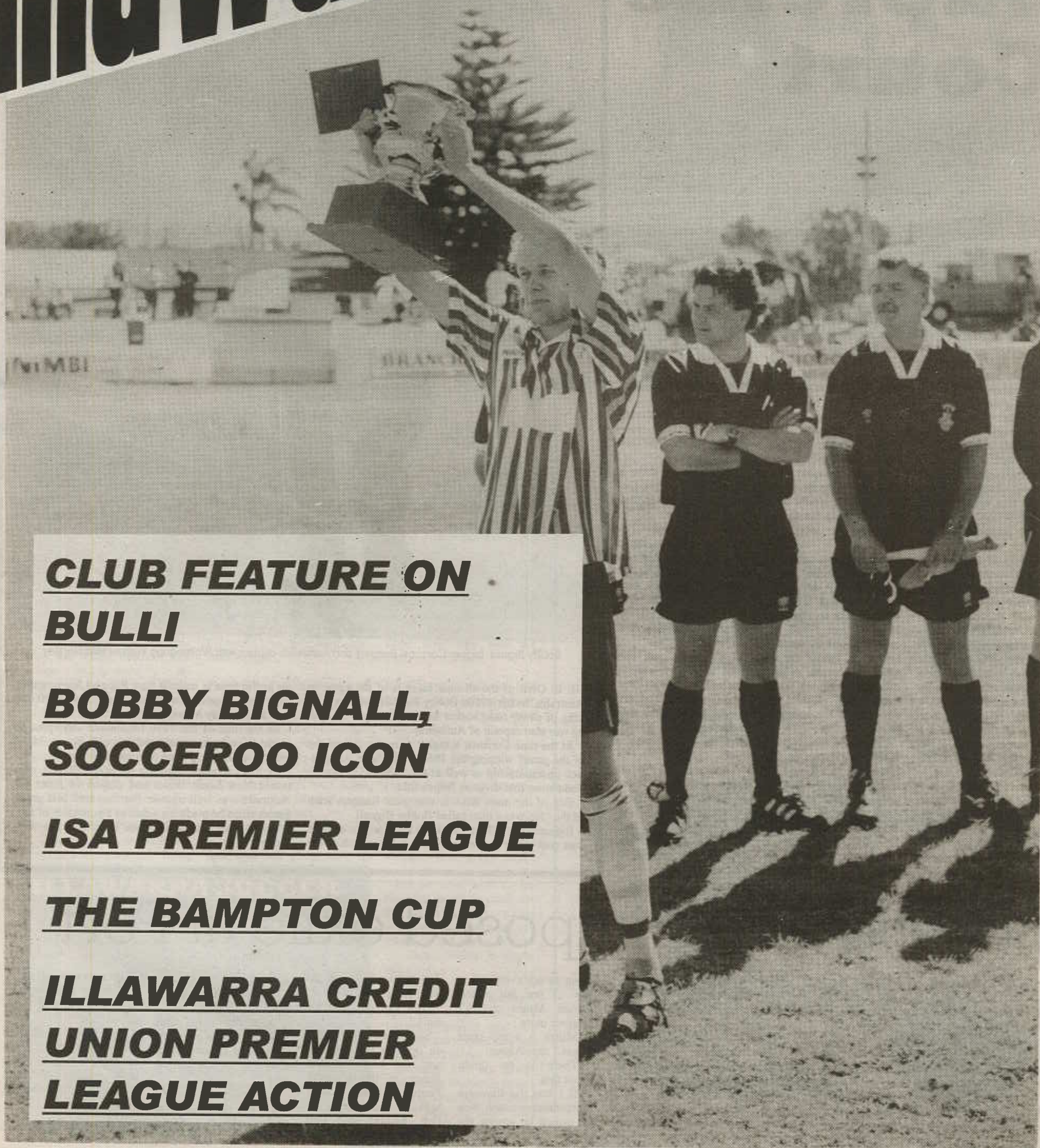
Getting the 2006 World  
Cup would lift some of  
the gloom and give the  
country something  
exciting to look forward  
to.

Beckenbauer and Bra-  
zilian Mario Zagallo are  
the only men to have won  
the World Cup both as  
player and coach.

Beckenbauer now faces  
a new challenge and all  
German football fans  
hope that, once again,  
the "Kaiser" will show  
that anything he touches  
changes to gold.



# Illawarra Soccer



**CLUB FEATURE ON  
BULLI**

**BOBBY BIGNALL,  
SOCCEROO ICON**

**ISA PREMIER LEAGUE**

**THE BAMPTON CUP**

**ILLAWARRA CREDIT  
UNION PREMIER  
LEAGUE ACTION**



# Legal case drags on in Supreme Court

THE CASE which has rocked Illawarra soccer is set for another day in court – on Thursday.

That is the day when the Supreme Court of New South Wales is set to hear the case being brought by Wollongong White Eagles soccer club against the Illawarra Soccer Association.

The ISA has maintained that it will not allow the White Eagles, last season's champion club, to play after kicking them out after a breach of rules commencing fielding unregistered players.

But the White eagles are adamant that there is a loophole in the rule and that their suspension from the competition was unfair – as well as illegal.

And it is a case which has not only been the talking point of Illawarra but one which has split the ranks of local soccer right down the middle.

ISA officials are insistent that popular opinion is with the decision to expel White Eagles.

But conversations I was involved with during the last two weeks indicate a growing support for White Eagles.

Many prominent local soccer identities feel that the suspension is a pay back for earlier misdeemeanours.

"They (White Eagles) played with the rules last year and now they are getting hammered," one told *Inside Soccer*.

"They played a suspended player but got off

with it on appeal because they said that they were not adequately notified.

"Maybe nobody is admitting it, but this is pay-back time – in a big way." ISA president Norman Flanagan is refusing to comment on the case less it be seen as prejudicial to his association's argument. "I can't really say anything about the case it self because that may well harm the whole thing," he said.

"We are back in court and I hope that the whole situation will be resolved by then. But you don't know which way things will go. Naturally I am fairly confident but you can't be too confident.

"If the decision was made in the spirit of the game then it would be a different thing but that is not how it works in court."

Already the case has cost both sides many thousands of dollars in legal fees and it could well run into six figure if, as is being predicted, the case is continued until a later date. Under the interim Supreme Court ruling Wollongong White Eagles are allowed to continue in the competition.

Last weekend saw them listed to play two games, including a Round 2 match against Woonona.

Tomorrow (Wednesday) Wollongong are due to meet 1998 Premiers Cringila Lions in a Round 1 fixture.

But there was consider-

able doubt whether the other clubs would actually field a team.

Already clubs are looking at asking for compensation for loss of revenue in White Eagles cancelled fixtures – now it seems they could be looking for compensation if they have to play them, especially if the results are then wiped out of the records should the ISA win the case.

AND in other ISA news president Norm Flanagan was ecstatic about the start to the new season, notwithstanding the White Eagles court case.

"Attendances have been brilliant," he told *Inside Soccer*.

"Kembla warra drew an excellent crowd for their first game and everything looks very rosy.

"And although Port Kembla haven't started so well, Adrian Alston is confident that they will pick up once they get a few injured players back.

"I'm very pleased with the start to the local competition."

ILLAWARRA will continue its rivalry with the Australian Capital Territory when representative youth and senior sides clash on the Queens Birthday Weekend in June.

This year the fixture, will alternate venues annually, will be played in Wollongong although it is uncertain if Balls Paddock, damaged in last year's floods, will be the venue.

## He's a Soccerroo icon



Bobby Bignall, former Corrimal Rangers and Australian captain with Wollongong Wolves Matt Horsley.

HE IS ONE of the all-time legends of the game in Australia. In the 1950s Bobby Bignall was not only king of south coast soccer in New South Wales but he was also captain of Australia.

At the time Corrimal Rangers were the champions of the game; winning the 1956 NSW State Association championship as well as the 1958 NSW Soccer Federation first division league title.

One of the main stays in that great Rangers team of the '50s was a man called Bobby Bignall.

Bignall was, like a lot of his team-mates, a south coast coal miner and often would finish a shift in the

pit just in time to make it for a Rangers league game, with the Rangers drawing anything up to 10,000 fans to their tidy Memorial Park ground.

At the time of the 1956 Melbourne Olympics he might have been considered too old, but at 34 he was the undisputed King of Australian Soccer.

He had captained Illawarra for over a decade, captained New South Wales and played 14 times for Australia – as well as over four hundred first grade games since he made his debut as a youngster of 13.

Maybe they just don't make them like that anymore.

# Bonetig in self imposed exile at Port

by Bruce Campbell

HE IS ONE of those rarities in State League soccer; a player who has all of the undoubted ability to play at a higher level but who chooses not to.

Port Kembla star Mineo Bonetig has had his time at Wollongong

Wolves, he has tasted NSL action but at 27 he feels it is something in his past now.

"I had too many injuries," he says. "I just couldn't match the physical requirements when I was playing NSL."

A series of groin and pelvic injuries put paid to

a promising career but that loss has been someone else's gain – Port Kembla's.

On his day Bonetig is mesmeric. He has the ability to glide past defenders and also possess that touch of the unpredictable. It is maybe that touch which marks him

down as not everybody's cup of tea but coach Adrian Alston couldn't disagree more.

"Mineo is a top class player," says Alston.

"There is no doubt about that.

"If I was the Illawarra representative coach then his would be among the

first names down on the team-sheet.

"But I'm not, and his isn't."

Some time ago I wrote an opinion that Bonetig was the best technical player in the Illawarra Premier League, a player with an abundance of rich, natural ball skill

talents.

But does his club coach agree?

"Most definitely," adds Alston, "Mineo is a great player and he can play almost anywhere on the park."

But for Bonetig almost anywhere means not in an NSL shirt – a choice

of his own making.

Does he have any regrets about his self imposed exile?

You have to ask him that yourself, but if I was coaching at Brandon Park next season his name would be on my own list of target players.

Alston agrees.



## YOUNG NSL STAR

## Paul Reid

by Stuart Jones

PAUL Reid is a young player who has been a revelation this season.

He plies his trade in the Wollongong Wolves' midfield and has had a great season in a struggling side.

Many have commented on how much time Reid seems to have on the ball and when he lets go with a shot on goal more often than not it causes much consternation in the opposition ranks.

Reid started his soccer playing at Campbelltown United when he was four and a half.

He then played for Campbelltown Police Youth before making it into the under 11s at Macarthur Rams.

Then he moved to Marconi for the Under 13s and 14s before playing for Wollongong Youth, having a season at ITC, and then the last two years have been spent in Wollongong.

"I have always been a midfielder although I did play striker occasionally," says the young Wolf.

"My goal record was quite good but as I have moved up the grades as a midfielder I have scored less often.

"Playing with Marconi juniors was a great experience."

"The side included Harry Kewell, Mick Galluzzo, Brett Emerton and Michael Cunico.

"We were a very successful side, the under 14s winning everything on offer.

"That year nine of our players trailed for the state team and all nine made it."

Paul Reid has had ups and downs, even in his young career, and the first real one was a broken ankle in the under 15s.

"I was playing out at Parklea in a youth cup competition against Blacktown," Reid recalls.

"I was waiting for the ball to come from a tackle and one of my team mates fell on me.

"I broke two bones clean and had to have a screw put in my ankle.

"It put me out for a season.

"In a sense looking back it was not such a bad thing.

"I missed a year but it helped me focus more on my ambition to play top level football.

"You think the worst at the time but as I came back I had to learn to play with my left foot and that improved my general game a lot.

"I came back fit again but just after the Marconi trials so it looked as if I could miss another season.

"However, the Wollongong youth coach Phil Pavella knew what I could do and he expressed his interest in me to the Wolves and they took me on in their Under 16 side.

"It was also a great side and included the likes of Tynan Scope, Mile Sterjovski, Michael Santalab, and Chad Bishop.

"In the end we finished third and lost in the semis to a great Sydney Olympic side.

"I also played in the youth league side so it meant a lot of football but that is good, it helps you hone your skills, however by season's end you do need a break."

So what of youth football?

At 16 or 17 many players have not learnt the skills that in most countries they would have had at 14.

The major gripe of many NSL coaches is that they are having to teach players skills that should have been developed in them long ago.

"You are learning skills all the time," agrees Paul Reid.

"However at 16 you should have the skills to play the game.



Young Wollongong starlet Paul Reid

*"I had to learn to play with my left foot and that improved my general game a lot."*

# Studs Up

the Australian fans' perspective



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"Early on it is about gaining skills but in your late teens it is about learning how to position yourself to maximise your own space on the field."

After a year away from the Wolves Paul returned.

"It was hard to fit in again," he says, "but was made slightly easier because I knew the boys there and the coach was the same.

"The Youth League is a good competition in terms of making the next step up.

"I think the best progression may be through NYL then state Super League, then the NSL.

"However, when you play Youth football you get to play against four over-age players and you try to match yourself with them as a measure of your own development."

So finally this season Paul Reid has had a chance to play first team football and he has really cemented a spot in the first team in Wollongong.

It would be hard to make that step up.

"I have adjusted to the speed of the game," he says.

"I think you learn quickly where you should be, what your role is and how to read your team mates.

"This is one of my strengths because I have to gain some time to either pass the ball or turn the defender.

"These days I am not

getting pushed off the ball as much as I used to which is great.

"I like one/two touch football and I hate getting caught in possession so I think that has helped me to survive in the top grade.

"Wollongong enjoy knocking the ball around and that has helped my own game.

"I enjoyed playing with Anthony Surjan in the midfield as he plays a lot like me.

"Noel Spencer and I took some time to adapt to each other but we soon gelled and he always helps to inspire you.

"He really gets stuck into the game and a couple of his tackles really push you to do even better alongside him.

"I am playing with Sasho Dimovski at present and he shows me new aspects of a midfielder's game.

"They do a lot of defence as well, I enjoy attacking rather than defending but I realise it is a big part of the game.

"The coach has pointed to my aggression as something I can work on in my game.

"Whatever has happened this season I have a long way to go and really I have not done much yet so really I can not get too carried away.

"There are many good aspects to this season.

"The experience I have gained by playing in the first team.

"Plus the support I have had from the club, the supporters, and the local media has really been appreciated.

"It would be hard if they were on your back but I have found them to be really positive towards my game.

"The worst aspect of this season has been the fact that really we have not picked up the points.

"We have dominated quite a few games and come away with no points, and that is disappointing."

When he was 11, Paul Reid set goals for his soccer career and they have helped him stay focused even when the disappointments have come along.

"When I was in the under 14s we played in the youth cup and I was player of the tournament," he remembers.

"The following year I was told I was too small to participate.

"I have also missed out a year in football due to the ankle injury, and missed the Under 17s and Under 20s side.

"However, it just focuses me more on the next goal.

"The downs make you work harder and also you think about proving to people you can play the game.

"They help me get motivated the most.

"In the end though I am lucky.

"Not many people get to play soccer at this level.

"It is about getting the right breaks and a lot of hard work.

"If you miss out on something it is not the end of the world you just get on with your life."

So what of these goals, what would Paul Reid like to see on his horizon?

"I would like to play for Australia in as many levels as possible," he says.

"Basically that is the Olympic and then the senior side."

Paul Reid has kept his feet on the ground along his rocky path to playing in the NSL.

It is refreshing to hear a player talk of putting something into the game in Australia.

Plus for those who doubt youth football is producing the goods just look at the players Paul Reid has played with along the way and you can see that football in this country is still in good hands.



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# BULLI

## PROFILE OF AN AUSTRALIAN SOCCER CLUB

by Bruce Campbell  
with thanks to  
Sandy Christie

**LIKE** many other clubs, Bulli's history is shrouded in the past - a mixture of recollections, some scattered documentary evidence and the odd fragment here and there.

But in 1889 there was a team playing in the Bulli area called North Illawarra.

There was quite a bit of activity in Illawarra soccer in those pioneering days of the game and in 1892 the South Coast League was formed.

In the days of amateur and semi-amateur football it is often hard, if not impossible, to distinguish the actual line of any club but officials of the current Bulli club claim 1947 as foundation year.

That would place the side playing in the 30s and 40s as Woonona-Bulli outwith the Bulli genealogy, but others would disagree.

The 1947 team played in blue and white quartered shirts at Slacky Flat, in Bulli.

Woonona-Bulli, which claimed descent from the North Illawarra side, played at that time at Ball's Paddock.

By the end of the 1950s the Bulli side had amalgamated with both the Bulli Surf Club and the Bulli Workers Club

## FACTFILE

Bulli Soccer Club  
Home Ground: Ball's Paddock  
President: Richard McNeill  
Coach: Peter Beggs  
Founded: 1947 (origins going back to 1889)

### Honours:

Premier League\* winners: 1985, 86, 88  
IPL Grand Final Champions: 1986  
Bert Bampton Cup winners: 1975, 77  
Charity Shield winners: 1978 (joint), 1987  
Corrimal Cup winners (since 1962): 1968, 69, 1987, 92  
Youth Cup winners: 1998  
Illawarra Premier League Club Championship: 1986, 87, 90, 93, 97

### Colours:

Blue shirts white navy and white vertical stripes  
Navy shorts and white socks

\* The Illawarra Premier League commenced in 1977  
Since 1964 Bulli SC has won the league 9 times, the Grad Final 6 times and the NSW Amateur Cup twice.

and then came under the wing of the Woonona Sports & Social Club, the parent body of South Coast United, playing then in the NSW First Division.

When South Coast United (later known as Safeways United) finally folded Bulli took over tenure at Ball's Paddock although they moved back to Slacky Flat for a time while the re-developers were doing their stuff.

Prior to 1988 the club was run by a committee elected from a popular vote but in that year it changed its structure to become an Incorporated body.

In 1994 the club changed once again and is now operating as a Limited company with a board of eight directors.

**COVER PHOTO:** (previous page) Bulli winning the Youth Cup last year.

## The passion of a local derby

by Bruce Campbell

EVERY soccer club has its local derby and Bulli is no exception.

Once upon a time Bulli was a separate township and things back then tended to be very local.

Times have changed and Bulli is now absorbed into what is known as Wollongong City.

But in the northern Wollongong suburbs the local rivalry on the soccer field is shared between the Woonona and Bulli clubs.

For many years the two clubs fielded a combined team in the New South Wales Asso-

ciation (pre federation days) First Division where their arch rivals included near neighbours Balgownie and Corrimal.

Without being outrageously successful, Woonona-Bulli won their share of the silverware including the Sydney Cup in 1929, 1944 and 1945 and the Miller Cup in 1945.

They had their share of Soceroos as well in those days, including Charlie Stewart and Ted Drain.

However, 1957 was a watershed year in more ways than one and marked the end, amongst other things, of any real strength of local level clubs in NSW competition.

The arrival in 1961 of South Coast United was an attempt by Illawarra soccer organisers to redress that situation and in many ways it succeeded, finally being the stimulus which led to the foundation of the National Soccer League club, Wollongong Wolves.

But on June 5th and August 28th the old Woonona Bulli rivalry is re-stirred.

With the promotion of Woonona from Division 1 this season the stage is reset for a return to the derbies of old on those dates.

If the passions and massive crowds of yesteryear are gone the intensity of any local derby will still be there.

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# Bulli building on community links for strength

BULLI doesn't hide anything; it doesn't pretend to be one of the big paying clubs in the Illawarra Premier League and speaking to club officials you get the distinct impression that they couldn't care less about mixing it with the big spenders.

They do want on-field success but instead have just gone about things a different way. Like getting themselves set up properly off-field for instance.

"We built the child care centre as an investment for the future," says Sandy Christie. "It has been going for ten years and hasn't quite reaped a financial windfall but it will. For the first five years we leased it out and then, as part of the deal, we took it over and employed the staff ourselves."

"We are mindful at the club that we have an obligation to our employees at the centre and we don't take that lightly."

"But it is also a way that a soccer club can put something back into the community."

The club doesn't just have the day care centre, it also has its own club

rooms which, although unlicensed, provide a good atmosphere for functions and also act as revenue earner by hiring out.

Sandy Christie also likes the idea that Bulli gives the neighbouring community centre free use of the facility.

"We have to," he laughs. "If we didn't we probably couldn't get our balls back when they

name Ball's Paddock.

"The original Ball's Paddock was just a field where the local butcher, called Ball, kept his livestock before slaughtering them."

Christie insists that money isn't one of the top priorities with his players; being part of a convivial atmosphere, however, is.

"We have players who have been here for

Anglos have a similar complaint, 'there are too many Jocks'.

But it is definitely a club where adversity and success have shared a common bed over the years.

The floods of last August have not been the only ones in the last twenty years or so.

In fact, they were the third in recent memory with each of the other

*"We kept a link with tradition there by keeping the name Ball's Paddock"*

go over the fence – and at \$100 each that would be a bit costly."

The club's current ground is actually a re-shift of the old South Coast United ground, moved a hundred yards over when a developer purchased the land to build a shopping complex.

The complex never happened but a range of houses did and part of that deal was that Bulli got a new ground.

"We maintained a link with tradition there," says Christie, "by keeping the

years," he says.

"People like Steve Sargeson who is our youth grade coach."

"He has been at Bulli for 17 years and played over 340 games for us."

"It is that sort of a club."

It is also that sort of a club where the British accents mix freely with the Aussie.

You could be forgiven for thinking they were predominantly Scots on the committee – but the Scots will tell you there are too many of 'them'.

On the other hand, the

two being serious enough in that the water came waist high.

Bulli, are still there, however, and are still at the forefront of soccer in the Illawarra Premier League.

"We have to be careful," insists Sandy Christie.

"We don't have the big sponsorships like some of the others."

"Instead we have to look after our sponsors and be careful with how we spend our money."

"This club is run on good lines."

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BULLI YOUTH GRADE 1998 – AFTER WINNING THE ILLAWARRA YOUTH CUP

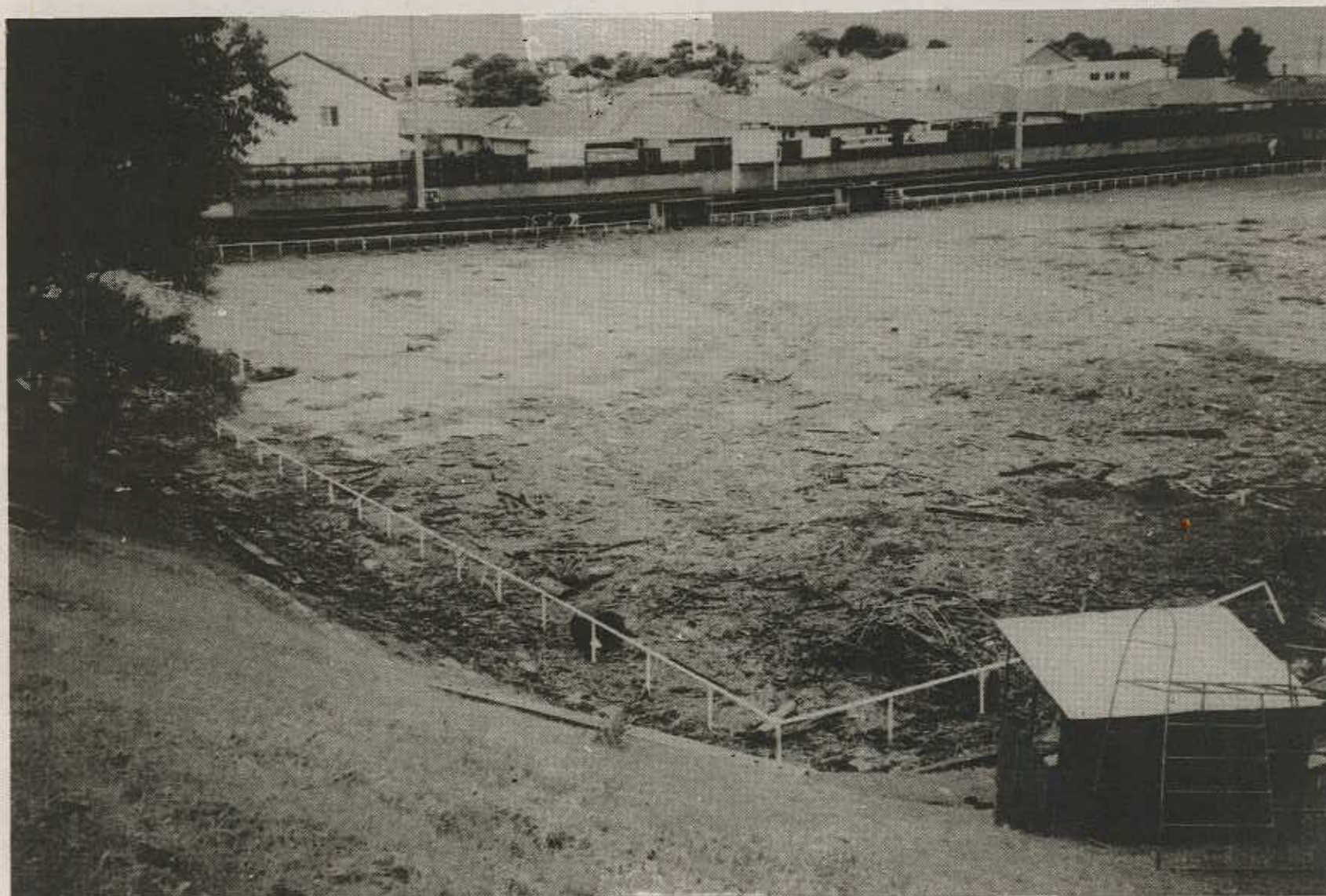




August 13, 1998 was another red-letter day in the history of Bull Soccer Club; it was the day when the club drowned.

But some tender after-death treatment saw the phoenix rise from its ashes, or whale from the beach, depending on just how you like to mix your metaphors.

With the flood waters abated and some sixty truck loads of flotsam and debris cleared from the pitch came the long, hard road back; clearing what was once the pride of Illawarra soccer.







Cringila Lions: the 1998 Illawarra Credit Union League Premiers are amongst the early favourites to win again this year.



FORMER Wollongong star Mike Hollifield was seriously injured last week in a car accident and is now recovering in hospital.

PORT Kembla's off-season signing from Cringila, Lawrence Hall, has also been through the wars.

After being mugged in Sydney the tough defender has made a steady recovery – although he has had steel plates inserted into head injuries.

Hall made his Port debut two weeks ago in the 3-0 loss at Bulli and came through the game well.

TARRAWANNA is the 'hot tip' for the Conference League this year – according to ISA Publicity Officer Otto Bader.

Otto says that coach David Naylor and his assistant Doug

Seymour have recruited wisely in the off season and are early competition leaders with an impressive goal scoring tally.

Recruits include the Hawke brothers from Picton (Matt, Andrew and Danny) as well as former IPL players reg Yeaman, Peter O'Brien, Graham Lovett, Chris Shephard and Paul Stegger.

FORMER Port Kembla goal scoring wizard Joe Campagna is now back playing in the ACT Premier League – after being signed on amateur terms! (ouch – Ed).

AND another PK star Kane Maccabei could be on the way to England for trials.

He was shocked recently when a friend told him that he had seen his photograph in

*Inside Soccer* – his friend was in England.

Michael Clare looks to join Maccabei on trials after the talented duo have finished their stint with the Wolves youth side.

VIC Costabile, a former Bill Turner Cup master player winner, is also set for more trials in Britain.

The talented midfielder is keen to get a step into full-time football and must win the prize for sheer determination and dedication.

WORD has it that Stuart Beedie will take over as Wolves first grade coach next year.

But the other word is that the club is set to ditch the former Hibernian player who has made such an impact with the young Wolves ... seems Beedie is maybe too good.

AND the story in the *Mercury* last week about the Lysaghts ground and the new/old grandstand has got the tongues going.

It seems that not everybody at the Wolves is toeing the line these days and there could well be some fireworks in store.



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Ball's Paddock

Northern United v Cringila Lions

Memorial Park

Woonona v Wollongong Olympic

Ocean Park

Lysaghts v Port Kembla

Figtree Recreation Ground

Fernhill v W'gong White Eagles

Towradgi Park

*Sunday 18 April*

Shoalhaven City v Kemblawarra

Ison Park, South Nowra

MATCH OF  
THE  
ROUND

## ILLAWARRA SOCCER

LAST YEAR *Illawarra Soccer* first appeared as a match day magazine for the Bampton Cup final and then the Illawarra Credit Union IPL Top 4 series.

While *Duntroon Publishing* were keen to proceed with a local product it was felt that it was not viable to produce a quality publication as a weekly match day magazine.

However, not wanting to abandon the project totally, *Illawarra Soccer* is now presented with *Inside Soccer* as a free publication.

The next issue, which will be increased in page numbers, will be published, again in tandem with Australia's best selling soccer publication, on Tuesday May 4 and then on the first Tuesday of the month afterwards.



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## NSW SUPER LEAGUE BIG MATCH UPDATE

FINE TUNED EAGLES  
PRESSING AT TOP

by Patrick Galloway

A FINELY tuned Bonnyrigg outfit took to the field against Bankstown City last Sunday afternoon in what was undoubtedly the clash of round twelve in the NSW Super League.

With Bonnyrigg eyeing up outright first position they certainly had plenty to play for, while Bankstown were looking to put an end to speculation of their indifferent form.

With a chance to test their measure against Bonnyrigg - the league's frontrunners, the clash obviously held a great deal of interest to the Jenson Park faithful.

The first half began with a bang with Robbie Gomez etching his name onto the scorecard with

an easy tap in after some enterprising lead up play just two minutes into the match.

A Colin Luff special in the 23rd left Bankstown keeper Leo Premutico without a chance, with the ball cleverly put into the back of the net by Luff who, in the process, took his Super League goal-scoring tally to a league leading ten.

The first half was dominated possession wise by Bonnyrigg, however in the 44th minute a short corner from Bankstown's Stewart Van Bentum saw Alex Trposki's white boots send an inswinging ball into the box, which was masterfully headed into the top right of the goal by an airborne Damien Luksic.

The 2-1 score-line at

the conclusion of the first period was to be the end result.

However, despite a goal starved second half, what it was lacking in goals, was made up for with entertainment.

A referee change in the 61st minute after the original man in the centre was overcome by cramp saw the pace of the game change.

Bankstown seemed to take advantage of this with some exceptional runs by George Issa down the right and some pinpoint long balls by Paul Bentvezlen, which more often than not landed at the feet of Zoki Adioski or his striking partner Trposki.

In the 63rd minute of the match a Bentvezlen through ball provided

Trposki with a chance of bringing the scores level, however an inaccurate chip sailed over the bar.

In the 67th minute the change of referee's had a decisive impact on the match, after a deliberate late tackle on Robert Issa forced Bonnyrigg to play the remainder of the second half with ten men.

To their credit they stuck to their task and a lonely Colin Luff up front provided Bonnyrigg with plenty of action in their opposition half, no doubt contrary to what Bankstown would have been expecting when the red card was issued.

With the speedy Robbie Gomez called back into the midfield beside the experienced Paul Richardson, Bonnyrigg never looked like being caught out, despite their lack of playing staff.

Despite a late chance falling to Bankstown's left flanker Stewart Van Bentum in the 89th min-

ute, where he shot wide after finding himself unmarked on the back post after a cross which floated above a desperate Paul Richardson, Bonnyrigg successfully held on

to their 2-1 half-time lead for their 8th win of the season.

Bonnyrigg next face Fairfield Bulls at the Serbian Centre on Saturday, while Bankstown travel

to Henson Park to take on Canterbury Marrickville, who have just come off a good 2-1 win over Sutherland at Seymour Shaw.



Fairfield Bull's Mark Hoenselaars

BONNYRIGG 2 (Gomez, Luff)  
BANKSTOWN CITY 1 (Nucic)  
Venue: Jenson Park  
Man of the Match: Ben Green BONNY

## NSW DIVISION 1 ROUND-UP

by Paul Goodwin

IN A thrilling and controversial derby at Arlington Oval on Sunday, keen rivals Stanmore Hawks and Hurstville City Minotaurs gave an enthralled gathering of supporters plenty to talk about both during and after the game.

Stanmore took the lead in the 37th from a typical Eddie Briscoe free kick from around the edge of

the box and extended the lead in the 71st when Nick Kambounias threaded the ball through for Malcolm Adams who went on to face the keeper, left exposed by a defence appealing for offside, Socrates Bakafoukas being on hand to tap the ball in from the simple pass.

Minotaurs were then stung by a third goal, this time from Adams who helped the ball in after

Bakafoukas had crossed from the right.

Two goals in the last 15 minutes by Tom Pontidas brought Minotaurs right back into the game and the Stanmore goal led a charmed life in the final minutes of a contest which the Hawks won with one of their less impressive performances on this occasion.

Penrith clawed their way back from two goals down against Manly-

Warringah and looked set to sew up the game at Andrews Road, but a fast break by the visitors saw Manly prevail 3-2.

Illawarra Lions beat AC United with a double strike from Jim Melissourgos and a third from his cousin Peter Antonopoulos, Dominic Oliverio replying for the home team at Abruzzi Oval.

Rockdale slammed seven past Moorebank, going in at the break already 5-0 up, beleaguered player-coach Gerry Gomez being among the

scorers.

Bathurst beat Auburn 2-1 at Mona Park where Scott Mutton netted a brace, one in each half, Auburn's goal coming from Gordon.

St George escaped with a point at home to Dulwich Hill whose early goal from Phil Cacciola was cancelled out by former Dulwich player Mark Santarossa in the 86th, thus preserving St George's unbeaten record at home, though they have yet to score more than once in a game

there.

Second Division saw Hajduk Wanderers crack seven past Hills United who held them to 1-1 early in the second period.

Four goals from Damien Brown and two from Tony Krslovic assisted them to retain their 100 per cent record at the head of the ladder.

Arncliffe Scots hit six for their second win, this time 6-1 over Belmore and three teams all enjoyed 2-1 wins away from home, Mount Druitt

at Hurstville ZSC, Mount Pritchard at Sydney District and Sydney University Greystanes where late strikes from Rob Smithies and Gordon Pitt destroyed a gallant home side who had led early with a Todd Harper goal.

Fraser Park's 6-0 Saturday win over Uni of NSW left them also with an untarnished record and they have emerged as strong challengers to title aspirants Hajduk at this early stage of the season.

Bulls doing  
something  
right

by Bruce Campbell

"IT WAS quite funny," says Fairfield Bulls coach Joe Watson (pictured), "I was reading an article in *Inside Soccer* about Lawrie McKinna and Sydney United and it could have been us.

"Every other team in the Super League trains at least three times a week - but we only train twice.

"So I'd have to agree with Lawrie, it isn't how often it is what you do that counts."

On early season form

the Bulls would have to be considered a contender for a finals spot, even although there is a long way to go yet.

Watson won't be drawn into that one but he is pleased with his side so far.

"Sure, the boys have done really well," he admits.

"I don't think many people would have considered us to be one of the front runners.

"I can't even complain about getting beat by Leichhardt the other week because we only

had ten men.

"There isn't much you can do when you have a player sent off so there isn't much use complaining either.

"At this stage of the competition I am delighted and I hope that we can continue to stick in for the rest."

A lot of the credit for the Fairfield side's results so far must go down to the strike force of Matthew Borg and Mark Ho-



enselaars.

Both are amongst the leaders in the Super League goalscoring charts.

Watson is in his first season with Fairfield which was only promoted to Super League at the end of last season.

Prior to that the former Soccerroo midfielder coached Eastern Suburbs.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION  
SUPER LEAGUE

## ROUND 13

Saturday 24th April

Blacktown City Demons v Macarthur Rams

Gabbie Stadium, 6:00pm

Central Coast v Sutherland Sharks

Pluim Park, 6:00pm

Bonnyrigg White Eagles v Fairfield Bulls

Serbian centre, 3:00pm

Sunday 25th April

Canterbury Marrickville v Bankstown City Lions

Henson Park, 3:00pm

Ryde City v Parramatta Eagles

Wentworth Park, 3:00pm

Leichhardt Tigers v Eastern Suburbs

Lambert Park, 3:00pm

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# No Surprises in WIN Federation Cup Quarter Finals

by Nick Guoth

ALL FOUR WIN Federation Cup quarter-finals went to the top seeded team from the original four Pools.

Some of the games were close, but only one posed a possibility of traversing into the realms of extra-time.

On Wednesday evening Canberra Olympic played University of Canberra and Canberra Deakin met Burns Club.

The Thursday night double header saw two replays from the past weekend.

Gungahlin Juventus challenged Monaro and Belconnen United fought out with Capital City Suns.

**OLYMPIC STAY ALIVE** writes Greg Welsh.

Canberra Olympic kept alive their hopes of taking out the Federation Cup with a 3-2 quarter-final win against University of Canberra at Greenway Oval on Wednesday night.

Despite Dominic Bartone's brace of goals for University, Olympic dominated the match throughout, and but for a combination of poor finishing and desperate defending from Uni, Olympic would have recorded a more comfortable victory.

Bartone caught the Olympic defence napping in the second minute with a sweetly-timed shot from the edge of the box, but from then on Olympic took control.

Geoff Howarth and Elia Salloum each notched up first-half goals as the University defence wilted under constant pressure.

An own-goal in the 35th minute stretched Olympic's lead to 3-1, and it seemed a rout was on the cards.

However, University emerged from the half-time break a better organised defensive unit, and Bartone's second goal 10 minutes from full-time threatened an unlikely comeback.

Canberra Olympic coach Baz Giampaolo

warned his players after the match that they could not afford to get cocky against less-fancied opposition, while University of Canberra coach Rod Lynes was left to ponder what could have been.

"I thought our second half was a lot better," Lynes said.

"Some of our set plays there at the end, if we'd maybe executed them a bit better we could've got a draw and maybe gone to penalties.

"But we can't concede three goals like that and expect to get things out of games."

ANTHONY Rakic scored a hat-trick as Canberra Deakin beat Burns Club 5-1 in their Federation Cup quarter-final at Greenway Oval last Thursday night.

Deakin took control from the beginning and never looked back after taking the lead through Michael Barac in the 29th minute.

Defensive lapses cost Burns with 'keeper Matt

Malgaard letting a long range effort slip through his fingers for Rakic's first goal, before hesitation allowed Bodo to slip between three defenders and slam home a cross for a 3-0 half time lead.

An Andrew Wallace near post header from a pinpoint Scott Hayes cross gave Burns some hope early in the second half but Rakic's second, a left foot strike with 15 minutes remaining, put the result beyond doubt.

Rakic completed his hat-trick in the dying minutes as the tired Burns defence allowed Deakin to run at them in

work was the outstanding feature."

His Burns counterpart Steve Bryant said his young team "have a long way to go but will learn."

THE FIRST match on Thursday night saw the Italian derby between Monaro and Gungahlin Juventus.

The previous Sunday the two teams drew 1-1 in the opening round of the season.

This time Monaro were dominant and won 2-1.

Both Monaro goals came in the first twenty minutes, yet they had chances throughout the match.

Danny Macor, the guilty one for spurning most of them.

After only ten minutes Macor pressurised the defence into a horrendous error such that the ball was passed to his striking partner, Lazar Simeonov, who only needed to tap in for the score.

Then another ten minutes and it was 2-0 to Monaro.

goal when Oscar Zamora crossed for George Catnach to score with a header.

Both coaches agreed that Monaro were the better team.

Ian Heywood said: "We were the better side and outplayed them throughout."

Losing coach Billy Willox stated "the first half destroyed us and we were always chasing."

THE SECOND half of the Thursday double was always going to be a close match.

Belconnen had already defeated Capital City Suns 1-0 the previous Sunday.

This time Belconnen repeated its win with a 3-2 scoreline, lest to say the final goal was a penalty in extra-time.

Belconnen played the first half with the wind, yet it was the Suns who took advantage of lax passing and hustling in the midfield to set up a number of chances for their forwards.

The rebound favoured the striker as the ball continued on its path to goal.

Into the second half and a lazy start exploded over a ten minute period, midway through the half, with three goals.

Belconnen were starting to emerge and deservedly took the initiative with two goals.

The first came with Jason Dunn sending a long pass to Scott Manson who set-up Craig Unwin to deflect the ball past Tony Giannasca and tie up the scoreline.

This was followed only seven minutes later when Matt Whyte put Unwin through for a one-on-one with Giannasca which he polished off with ease.

Yet, it took less than two minutes for the Suns to equalise.

A free kick was floated into the box by Gus Cerro and found Peter Romaniuk to loop his header over Smith.

Extra-time looked a real possibility when in the dying seconds Belconnen were awarded a penalty after Giannasca fouled Peter Farrelly.

Manson put away the kick and his side moved onto the semi-finals.

Bels coach Lino Fiorese said: "I thought we deserved the result in the end," whilst Bill Dojcinski was fuming over the penalty.

"The game was alright. We gave our best, and we had a few chances to put it away, but this was an unfair result" he said.

## SEMI DRAW

THE ACT WIN FEDERATION CUP semi-finals are set down for Wednesday April 28th with Belconnen United playing Canberra Olympic and Monaro against Canberra Deakin.

The Final will be played on Sunday May 16th.

numbers, the goal coming after a Gaby Exposito shot was blocked into Rakic's path.

Deakin coach Ian Shaw said he was "very happy with the performance" of his side and that "team

A clearance from defence found Joe Campagna on the right wing.

He looked up and chipped the keeper from over 30m out.

Juventus were able to manage a late consolation

A little under half an hour saw a through ball come to Tony Lemezina.

His layoff was in the path of Gus Cerro who met the ball at the same time as Bels 'keeper Mark Smith.

## Soccer Blues name strong squad for ANZAC Day clash

THE NEW South Wales Soccer Federation has named a strong squad to face Northern New South Wales on Monday April 26 in their ANZAC Cup clash.

The game will be held at Jack McLaughlin Oval at 3:00pm and will be preceded by the ANZAC Shield Clash between New South Wales and Northern New South Wales Women's teams at 1:00pm.

The Super League Select Team is made up of 18 players from 9 clubs, and after winning the event in 1996 and 1997 will once again prove tough to beat.

Unfortunately the 1998 game was washed out, so the Northern New South Wales players will be keen to take the Cup back home.

New South Wales

Alex Trposki and Richard Luksic (Bankstown City); Borislava Dragas, Paul Richardson and Robert Gomez (Bonnyrigg White Eagles); Peter Preston (Central Coast); Frank Mikuletic and Tom Bazdaric (Leichhardt Tigers); Matthew Lowe and Jason Bennett (Blacktown City); Jim Nikas (Canterbury Marrickville); Matthew Borg (Fairfield Bulls); John Crawley, Dion Valle, David Reid, Kain Rastall and Trevor Whiddett (Macarthur Rams); Craig Sharpley (Ryde City).

Coach - Doug Utjesenovic

Manager - Laki Konistis

Equipment Manager - Bruce Maloney

Physio - Louis Shidiak



Dion Valle: At the age of 21 Dion has played in two World Youth Championships for Chile, despite being born in Australia.

## Murray named women's all star

By Ted Simmons

Australian striker Julie Murray has capped an outstanding season with her win as the outstanding player in the women's national soccer league season.

Murray, who plays for the NSW Institute of Sport, was presented with the Julie Dolan Medal at a ceremony in Sydney on the weekend after a total of 54 votes.

Second was Lisa Casagrande (Canberra) from Lisa Dunne (Queensland).

The 28-years-old

Murray was a model of consistency in central midfield for NSW and, as striker for Australia, used her scoring skills to advantage.

Two strikes in particular helped earn her the award as the International Player of the Year.

They were her second minute goal against New Zealand in the Oceania World Cup qualifying win in Auckland last October and her scoring shot, the only goal in three matches, which gave Australia a 1-0 win and the series against North Korea.

Casagrande, who trailed Murray by only eight votes in the Dolan Medal, was the season top scorer with 16 goals from 16 games, including four hat-tricks.

Dunne was second with nine goals.

Another NSW player,

16-year-old Michelle Carney, was voted as the best first year newcomer in the league.

Carney has moved into contention for selection in the Australian Under 21 team to play in the Nordic Cup in Iceland in August.

1998-99 National League Summer Series Awards:

Julie Dolan Medal for Player of the season:

Julie Murray (NSW) 54 votes

Lisa Casagrande (Canberra) 46

Lisa Dunne (Queensland) 40

Leading scorer: Lisa Casagrande 16 goals

Best first year player: Michelle Carney (NSW Sapphires).

International Player of the Year: Julie Murray.

NSW Women's Soccer League (WSL)

## Sunni sets Northern away

Northern NSW beat Sydney United on their home ground, Werrington Field, on Sunday in round four of the NSW WSL, 4-0 in first grade and 1-0 in reserve grade.

Sunni Hughes opened Northern's account in the 25th minute with a clinical finish.

Tracey Oldham added to the scoreline in the

65th minute and the goal of the match went to Amber Neilson three minutes later. Lorissa Stevens worked down the right flank and crossed to Neilson in front of goal but 30 metres out.

Neilson's first time cracker finding the back of the net for a 3-0 scoreline. Marnie Scevak sealed the three points

with one minute remaining.

Coach Mark Jones was not only pleased with the win but again Northern NSW kept their goal-line in tact giving them two games from three (round three washed out) with clean sheets.

"A four nil win is good but another clean sheet is also very good," Jones

said. "We never looked like conceding a goal so that is pleasing, we played well."

Northern NSW are at home next week, Jack McLaughlin Oval, to Central Coast ahead of the annual Anzac Shield clash with NSW on Monday (26 April) also at Jack McLaughlin Oval at 1.00pm.



## VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE UPDATE

# Altona score dramatic equaliser in violence-marred match

by Bert van Bedaf

AN UGLY on-field melee and a crowd disturbance marred Saturday night's clash between Altona Magic and visitors Melbourne Raiders, who fought out a dramatic 2-2 draw at Paisley Park.

It was the second incident in as many weeks, after last week's violent disturbances at the match between South Dandenong and Preston.

Raiders president Sam Cuteri said the club would lodge a complaint with the Victorian Soccer Federation over the incidents.

Preston also filed a complaint last week.

A brawl erupted in the 86th minute when referee Robert Caminiti sent off Altona defender Marjan Tasevski for a behind play incident.

The score then was 2-1 for the Raiders after a scoreless first half.

Raiders substitute Lirim Salievski, on for Pino Corallo in the 67th minute, challenged Tasevski and the players collided.

Tasevski was red-carded, on the linesman's advice, for allegedly attempting to head-butt his opponent.

Immediately an on-field brawl broke out, involving the field players both teams.

Caminiti and the linesman tried to restore order, halting play for five minutes.

An angry crowd hurled objects at the Melbourne Raiders coaching staff, according to team manager Ross Follacchio.

A spectator tried to jump the fence and was led away by two police officers. Police later said no arrests were made.

Altona scored a dramatic equaliser a minute into stoppage time after twice coming from behind.

Raiders striker Nick Cuculeski headed home a minute after the break from a pinpoint cross by George Jolevski.

But defender Toni Trifunov levelled for Preston with a towering header from a corner by player-coach Zoran Trajceviski.

Cuculeski shot the Raiders into the lead again in the 82nd minute, just before the controversial sending-off.

With emotions running high and the atmosphere tense, Altona rallied and Tom Markovski snatched a late equaliser, drilling the ball home from inside the penalty area after Simon Micevski had laid it off in a congested Melbourne defence.

"The crowd abused me and the players," Raiders coach Dusan Kalezic said after the match.

"There was a can thrown at the linesman.

"I thought sport was about making friends, not enemies.

"I think we should have won, but the fighting threw us off.

"Overall, I thought, we played a good game."

"We will lodge a complaint with the VSF," a shaken Cuteri said.

"Projectiles were thrown.

"When the Altona player was sent off the fighting began.

"One of our coaching staff was hit," he said.

Altona secretary Bob Dimitrievski was at the other side of the ground and could only look on from a distance.

"There was a kerfuffle in the crowd, but we were on the other side, so I don't know exactly what happened," Dimitrievski said.

Altona president Malissa Fischer-Massa was not at the match because of illness.

A SECOND-HALF hat-trick by Preston star

striker Warren Spink put an end to Port Melbourne's undefeated run of ten rounds, but despite their shock 3-2 home loss the Sharks retained the lead at the top of the Victorian Premier League table.

They had their lead halved to three points

after Green Gully beat local rival Sunshine, while Preston consolidated third spot, two

points behind the Cavaliers and three points ahead of the Melbourne Raiders, who are fourth on 18 points.

It was probably the match of the season so far.

There was quality football on both sides and little between the protagonists apart from a penalty in the first half, which put Port Melbourne a goal up at the break, and the single-goal margin in favour of Preston at the close.

The Lions roared for the second 45 minutes, taking and surrendering the lead before snatching a gutsy win in the 82nd minute, but not before repelling some staunch attacking by Port with some miraculous saves off the line by Preston defenders and 'keeper Lou Acevski.

The Preston club song rang out in the visitors' dressing room and coach Vlado Vanis told his players: "Every player put in 100 per cent. "You've earned the victory. Well done."

Vanis said victory was won by dominating the middle of the pitch and making good use of the full backs on the wings, especially in the second half.

The mood was subdued in the Port dressing

room, but no player needed to blame himself. Some chances were not put away, but not because of lack of effort,

but because the Preston defence lifted their level just a bit more.

"It was inevitable that we would lose some time. But I'd have preferred to have done it away from home, but the loss may do us more good than harm. It will

give the players a kick up the backside," player-coach Peter Tsolakis said.

Affectionately known as "Gus", Tsolakis put himself on the field in the second half with the score 2-1 for Preston.

"I got on to help the boys and we got back in the game, but then Preston scored and you can't expect to win when you don't take your own chances," a philosophical Tsolakis said.

Port Melbourne took the lead in the 26th minute when Kosta Caimakanis struck his spot-kick at the second bite.

Referee Dominic Barba awarded Port their penalty after deciding Preston stopper Sasa Ogneovski had fouled striker Nick Tsaltas in the air.

Acevski saved the first attempt, but Barba had the kick re-taken apparently because the Preston 'keeper had moved over his line too early.

A cool Caimakanis struck home at the second attempt and the Sharks looked like taking a good chunk out of the Lions.

A busy Tsaltas in the 35th and again ten minutes later was denied by Acevski.

Kamer Simsek hit the crossbar for Preston in the 51st minute with a shot on the turn, but Port had the runs, if not, the goals on the board in the next ten minutes. Acevski again denied Tsaltas, while Ogneovski and co-defender Anton Kovacic worked overtime to

keep Tsaltas and Peter Kakos in check.

Ogneovski crashed into the goal post to save a Tsaltas shot off the line in the 80th minute, while George Tzirtis put the rebound over the bar.

Yet, it was the hitherto unsighted Warren Spink who levelled after 63 minutes with a scrambled shot after a poor defensive Port clearance from a Chris Emsovski corner.

Emsovski again provided with a pinpoint cross four minutes later for Spink to put Preston ahead with an emphatic diving header.

When Nick Tsaltas equalised in the 75th minute with a right-foot shot that struck the net off the inside of the left post from a Tom Sonsini cross, it seemed the Sharks were ready to shred the Lions.

But Spink's international experience and ability to maintain concentration and intensity for a full 90 minutes

showed when he struck the winner with eight minutes left.

Defender Sasho Slaveski fired a scorcher from outside the box that Port keeper Jamie Cooper dropped.

Spink jumped at the chance, tapping home his third goal and sealing victory for the jubilant Lions.

IN OTHER results Green Gully beat local rival Sunshine 2-0 with goals by Jani Suric and Daniel Genovesi.

The Cavaliers lost 1-0 to Springvale last Monday to complete round 10 and are on 23 points in second place, three points behind Port Melbourne.

The White Eagles goal came in the 36th minute when Zlatko Mihailovic slotted home a free-kick over the Green Gully defensive wall and behind keeper Robert Brian.

Brian, playing against his old club, recently transferred to the Cavaliers, taking over from Chris Vella, who paid the price for a few bad mistakes recently.

But Springvale lost its round 11 match 2-1 to Fawkner, who made it three wins in a row to move mid-table on 14 points.

Santo Emmanuele and Frank Bramontana struck for the Blues, while Milan Mihajlovic scored for the Eagles.

St Albans sent South Dandenong packing 2-0 with two goals in the

44th and 69th minutes by Harry Karl, who scored a hat-trick last week.

IN ROUND 12 matches, South Dandenong is at home to Port Melbourne on Saturday night.

On Sunday, Fawkner hosts Sunshine, Springvale visits Bentleigh, Altona East meets Westvale and Bulleen visits Preston.

On Monday, Melbourne Raiders welcome St Albans and Green Gully hosts Altona Magic.

## PRESTON LODGE COMPLAINT AT VSF HQ

by Bert van Bedaf

PRESTON has lodged a complaint with the Victorian Soccer Federation regarding disturbances at last week's match away to South Dandenong.

Ethnic tensions flared between Macedonian-backed Preston and Albanian-supported South Dandenong at the end of the match, which Souths won 4-3.

"After we interviewed the players and detailed what they experienced, we lodged a complaint with the VSF. It is now in the hands of the commission," club president Jim Petrovski said.

VSF chairman Joe Brondolino, who was present at the match, but said he'd left before the disturbances broke out,

said: "We'll have a look at the match report and Preston's complaint ... and the Federation will investigate the matter."

Petrovski said players had been attacked.

"It was a very scary situation. Some of the younger players were scared. Our coach was hit by a can.

"There were racial slurs and there was spitting and swearing going on," he said.

Preston coach Vlado Vanis said: "I've never been so scared in my life."

South Dandenong vice-president Tefik Sinani also believed a can was thrown.

"I believe the (Preston) coach was hit on the head.

"A spectator threw a

can of Coke.

"But nothing else happened, nothing really big.

"Our security had everything under control," he said.

But according to reports by the Macedonian language press, security appeared inadequate.

The Preston players were kept in the dressing room for 40 minutes after the match because of lack of security and an insufficient police presence.

Re-enforcements were called in later.

The reports also revealed Preston had contacted South Dandenong well before the match, requesting special security measures and had also sent a copy of its letter to the VSF.

But no action had been taken, according to Preston officials.

Only a few weeks ago,

the VSF decided to hold the match between South Dandenong and Serbian-backed Springvale White Eagles without spectators at a neutral ground.

However, it appears the VSF is misreading the continuing undercurrents, unleashed by the highly-charged Kosovo conflict, among clubs backed by communities of Balkan origins.

But Brondolino said the Federation was not taking the situation lightly.

"We're taking it very seriously. We don't tolerate politics being brought into the game. Clubs that bring politics into our game can look towards severe and harsh punishment," he said.

## MONDAY NIGHT SOCCER

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

### GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS ALTONA MAGIC

*Come join the excitement at Green Gully's home matches, and enjoy a meal, the hospitality and the pokies at the clubhouse Tabaret.*  
Green Gully Reserve, Green Gully

Monday 26 April  
Kick Off: 6.15pm reserves, 8.15pm seniors



# Rams News

MDSFA update  
with  
Gary  
Cremming



IN A BIG week for Macarthur soccer both the Rams men's Super League first grade and Women's Super League first grade teams were sitting on top of their respective competitions going into last weekend's competition round.

The Rams emphatic 2-0 victory over Sutherland Sharks and the UWS Macarthur Ladies victory over Central Coast sees both teams as equal leaders.

The Rams are very proud of the fact that they are the only Association to field teams in the highest level of men's and women's, youth league and junior league in New South Wales – but to sit top of the table in the men's and women's is great news for the club.

MACARTHUR'S Under 16s Super Youth League squad raised the roof with the team song following an exciting 30-2 victory over leading team Sydney United. The team has been playing well but without a lot of luck. Coach Brian Dene said this result was the team's 'reward'.

Good recent wins over Gladsville, Parramatta Eagles and Sydney United see the team back on track following the loss of a lot of players at the end of last season to other clubs.

SENIOR coach Casey de Bruin introduced an apprenticeship scheme at the Rams when he arrived at the end of 1997 which has been working very well.

This year the scheme has been extended to Youth League players and the players receive extra training with the senior players, sprint and conditioning training under the club's sprint coach, Phil Austen, and a supervised weight training programme.

The senior apprentices also receive a weekly allowance to help cover their costs.

This year's senior apprentices are 18-year-olds Dale Clayton, Wesley Horne, Rodney Hutchinson and 16-year-olds Matthew Thompson, Glen Wheatley and Christian Cevenini.

Our youth league apprentices are Dwayne Pearson (under 16s), Wade Scherini (under 15s) and Dale Robinson (under 14s). The apprenticeship scheme is

funded by the Supporters Club through the running of the popular '100 Club'.

SUPER Sub Iain McDonald has the knack of being in the right place at the right time.

Two weeks ago he sealed victory against Sutherland five minutes after coming on and a few weeks before that did the same thing against Parramatta Eagles.

MDSFA WILL be holding an under 10 knock out cup on ANZAC Day for all teams in the association and based on the World Cup format.

It is expected that over 40 teams will compete on the day. Macarthur's coaching panel will be on hand to identify forty players who will be selected for an Under 10 development squad which is a 20-session training programme to help identify talent for the following year's Under 11 representative team.

THE RAM'S Junior League teams are well into things now with two Under 12 and two Under 11 representative teams.

Due to the setting up of the Cadet League by the NSWFS and the existing junior league run by the NSWASF the board of MDSFA felt that it was important that the association supported both competitions to give more players the opportunity to play representative soccer.

A decision was made that the first picked team would play in the NSWASF Junior League with the second squad to play in the NSWFS Cadet League.

It was also decided, after consultation with member clubs, that it would be compulsory for members of the Cadet League teams to play in the local competition also, ensuring the viability and standard of that competition.

MACARTHUR RAMS Under 16s will be heading to Vanuatu in December to defend the South Pacific Cup won by last year's Under 16s.

All the team members are busy fund raising for the trip and will be manning the canteen and BBQ at the remaining Rams senior home games as well as assisting with the running of the Under 10s Cup.

The Under 12 Junior League are also in the process of fundraising for their trip to Tasmania to compete in a tournament at the end of this season.

UNDER 18s player Shane Dunn was missing from the Rams match against Canterbury a few weeks ago. Shane, who travels from Batemans Bay to training and games each week, is also a very talented golfer and was involved in the Australian Junior Golf Championship in Melbourne.

# FIRST DIVISION SELECT SQUAD NAMED FOR NEW CALEDONIA

THE NSW Soccer Federation has named a select squad of First Division players to face the New Caledonian national team over the ANZAC weekend.

The squad departs on Wednesday April 21 and returns on Monday April 25.

While in New Caledonia they will play two fixtures against the national team, on Friday April 23 and Sunday April 25.

The tour continues a long history of visits to New Caledonia by Australian teams which started in 1933 when the Socceroos undertook an unbeaten four match tour.

Biographies by club:  
Manly Warringah.

**Danny Barbalace**, a rugged 25 year old defender and midfield workhorse, who has been a Warringah Dolphin and now a Manly-Warringah Dolphin for some years now, but had a short spell at Sydney Olympic in 1997.

Also a member of the Australian Futsal team which went to Brazil in 96/97, 'Bubba' is a builder by trade.

He was in the Dolphins side that won the Super League in 1995.

**Matthew Bastian**, just 24, has come down from Brisbane where he played in the top division with Taringa and has been a great find

this season already in the stopper's position.

His studies as a chiropractor brought him to Sydney and the Dolphins are only too pleased that they did.

**Dean Harding**, 29, and also a builder, returned to the Northern Beaches club after spells at Blacktown, where he was a member of the 1997 Grand Final team and then at local side Brookvale where he helped the Manly-Warringah District side win the NSW Champion of Champions last season.

After scoring 9 goals in the first five rounds he was an obvious candidate for selection.

**Damian Rosenthal**, a 28-year-old sales executive, is another who hails from

Queensland and was a member of the Queensland state squad in 1994.

He played there for North Star and is an out and out striker who has a real nose for goal.

**Kelvin Foster**, brought on under former coach Agenor Muniz, is a stylish defender who likes to get forward and can score goals.

Still only 19, he began his soccer at the strong Ku-ring-gai District club Hornsby Heights before going on to play reps for the District at Under 14 to Under 16, and then moved into the Warringah Dolphins Under 18s where he rapidly progressed to 1st Grade.

Rockdale City.

**Bill Petrovski** is a huge talent and one of the bright boys of the Suns squad in the middle of the park.



Coach and former goalkeeping legend Tony Pezzano

St George.

**Trinity Allen**, 22, a goalkeeper who has had two spells at the NSW Institute and a year at the AIS.

He also had a period at Wollongong City as well as

Polonia, West Wanderers and Macarthur before linking with Penrith and is a nippy little midfielder player who scores plenty of goals, now playing striker for the Panthers.

**Ben Wright**, 22, also ex West

following the birth of his daughter last year and works as a printer at Charles Sturt University.

**Matthew Baillie** 21 year old goalkeeping prospect from the local area who is study-

**SQUAD:** Trinity Allen (St George), Danny Barbalace (Manly Warringah Dolphins), Matthew Baillie (Bathurst '75), Jerry Barros (Dulwich Hill), Matthew Bastian (Manly Warringah Dolphins), Nick Bolianitis (Stanmore Hawks), Bob Casserly (Penrith Panthers), Kelvin Foster (Manly Warringah Dolphins), Dean Harding (Manly Warringah Dolphins), Danny Hinton (Penrith Panthers), Peter Kypreos (Stanmore Hawks), Scott Mutton (Bathurst '75), Bill Petrovski (Rockdale City Suns), Mark Rooke (Bathurst '75), Damian Rosenthal (Manly Warringah Dolphins), Simon Verrinder (St George), Ben Wright (Penrith Panthers).

Manager: Mendo Cklamovski (Rockdale City Suns).

Coach: Tony Pezzano (Manly Warringah Dolphins).

Assistant Coach: Jean Paul de Marigny

Physio: David Hughes

Originally one of their juniors, he had spells at St George and Sydney Olympic, but as a sweeper.

Returning to the central midfield with his favourite club again this year.

Aged 19 he is the best prospect to emerge from the club in a long while.

Stanmore Hawks.

**Nick Bolianitis** a tall midfielder who has a strong shot and is naturally good in the air.

Still learning but came to the club from Alexander Warriors where he was coached by John Sentas.

**Peter Kypreos**, very talented youngster who plays wide and is a creative player.

at Fairfield Bulls and Sydney Olympic youth team.

**Simon Verrinder**, 21, a St George junior who has really blossomed this year under Paul Carter and has attracted the interest of several Ericsson Cup clubs with his positive work in central midfield.

Penrith Panthers.

**Bob Casserly**, 28, has much experience at Polonia, Leichhardt Tigers, Mount Druitt and Hills United before joining this club three seasons ago.

He is comfortable at sweeper, but can also play in midfield and anywhere along the back four.

**Danny Hinton**, 24, was at

Wanderers and Macarthur who has been put into a stopper's position with success.

Dulwich Hill

**Jerry Barros**, 22, converted now to a speedy attacking flanker, having previously played in midfield, has been coming along steadily for some seasons at the club where he began as a junior and where he has just signed a two year contract.

Bathurst '75.

**Scott Mutton**, 27, very dangerous target man who snaps up half chances and gets into scoring positions intuitively.

After a year at Eastern Suburbs in Super League he returned to his home town

ing physical education in the area.

Like his team mates he has come through the junior ranks and the man they call 'Sticks' has also played District and Country representative soccer before this selection.

**Mark Rooke** 30 year old long time midfield workhorse and sometime striker who always combines well with Mutton and has been a mainstay of the side in recent years.

Also a father recently, with a 16 month old son, he had trials at Ipswich Town and upon his return turned out with Sutherland, but most of his soccer has been played in Bathurst.

# MY TEAM

IF YOU would like your junior team featured here just send a current photograph to the address on page 3 – and include names of the players in the photograph.



PARRAMATTA EAGLES UNDER 12s



## ACT BIG MATCH UPDATE

# Belconnen continue on from last season

by Nick Guoth

**BELCONNEN** United moved to the top of the table on the weekend when they defeated Gungahlin Juventus 5-2.

A hat-trick from Matthew Whyte was one of the highlights of a game that didn't provide the spectators with much.

The turning point in the game came when Juventus' keeper Elias Oikarinen came out for a challenge and handled the ball outside of the box.

His dismissal was a blow to the team but Juventus came out of the blocks more intent and scored in the 5th minute.

A free kick to the far post was met by Igor Causoki whose shot was deflected in by Oscar Zamora.

Belconnen tried hard to get their shape and in the first 25 minutes were frustrated by their own errors and solid defence led by Tony Rinaudo.

For a fifteen minute period late in the half Belconnen began to dominate and during this time took their chances.

Half an hour in and a Luke Larfield cross found Matt Whyte lurking behind the defence unmarked.

He easily beat the keeper from 10 metres out.

A few minutes later Frank Barresi had a chance to regain the lead for Juventus, when he broke through, but with players on him, his shot went inches wide.

Then with ten to go in

the half, a Lee Pietrukowski throw found Jason Dunn who's header was only palmed away by the 'keeper.

Whyte came in a far post and put away the rebound.

The second half started quietly with Juventus applying the pressure, their best chance falling to Lou Gaspari who saw his header just palmed over the bar.

Then half-way through the second period, Oikarinen came out to challenge Craig Unwin for the ball, some 30m from his goal.

Craig's attempted chip-shot went straight into the 'keeper's arms and that was a red card for the keeper.

With only ten men Juventus fought hard and rightfully gained an equaliser six minutes later.

John Markezic sent the ball to the midfield for Zamora.

His attempted shot slewed off his boot and found Gaspari.

Now in behind the defence he beat the 'keeper at the near post.

A few more minutes on and Belconnen started to make the extra man count.

A cross from Larfield was met by substitute Damian Tunney at the near post and his little chip went over Dennis Langone who was now in goal for Juventus.

Three more and Tunney became provider when his cross went to the far post and found Whyte to complete his hat-trick

with a solid header.

Juventus had one more chance after a corner kick was met by Craig Rankine, but his header went agonisingly wide.

Finally in the dying minutes, well into time added-on, a cross was challenged well by Peter Farrelly and the ball fell to Larfield, who at close range rifled it past Langone.

Bels coach Lino Fiorese was happy with the three points, but not with the way the team played.

"We were pretty poor early on and only got into the game for 15 minutes during the first half.

"I was disappointed with the crosses and the way we gave the ball away too easily.

"The turning point of the game was the sending off of the goalkeeper.

"Even after that we struggled, but we did take our chances.

Olympic vs Weston Creek

BY DYLAN DURIE

Two second half goals from Steve Lazzari handed Weston Creek a convincing 3-0 victory over Canberra Olympic in their ACT Premier League clash at O'Connor Oval on Sunday.

Lazzari struck in the 57th and 83rd minutes after Peter Hader had given Royals a 1-0 lead with a free back post header from a Martin Lazzari corner in first half injury time.

Lazzari's first was set-up by midfield play maker Yushi Sato who beat his man then slid a

pin point through ball on to Lazzari who finished first time.

His second was identical to Hader's goal, also from a Martin Lazzari corner showing 'keeper David Collins frailty under the high ball.

Olympic had enough possession to trouble Royals but simply could not find an effective final ball to break the rigid Weston Creek defence.

Royals' coach Jimmy Bland was clearly ecstatic about the win, pumping his fists on the way off the ground after labelling the victory "a great collective performance" by his team.

AT DEAKIN Oval, Canberra Deakin and Capital City Suns shared the points in a tight match.

Suns scored first through David Stambolziev around halfway through the first period and then with ten minutes left in the half, Anthony Barac equalised for Deakin.

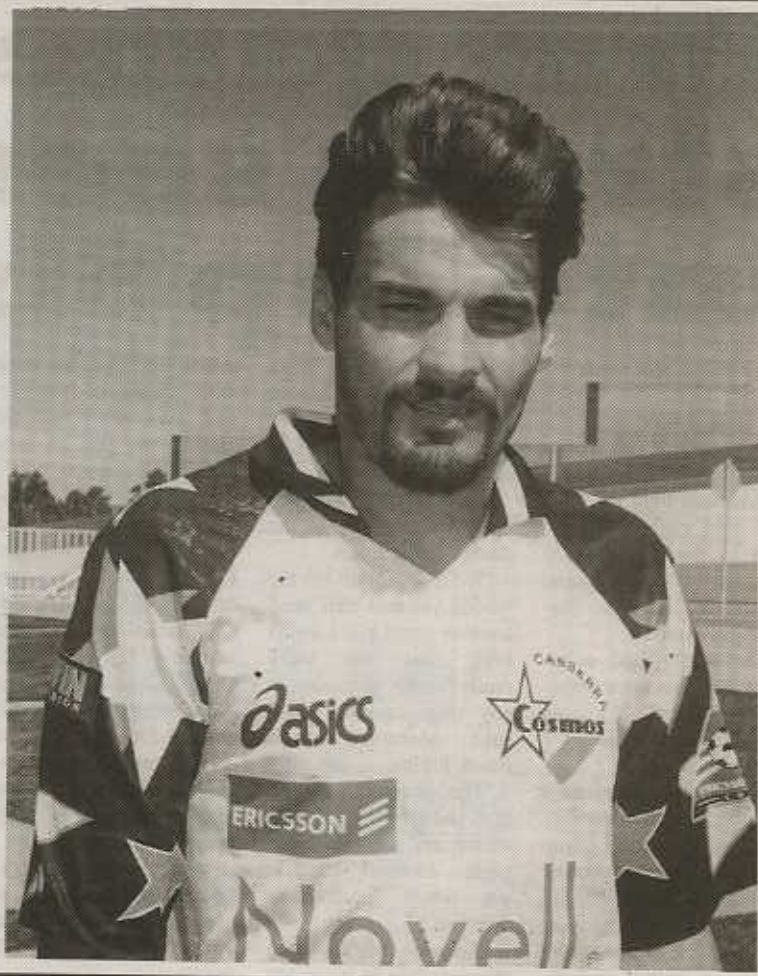
Ten minutes into the second stanza and a handball presented Suns with a penalty.

Gus Cerro put that away to regain the lead for his team.

But only seven minutes later Andy Rakic was brought down in the box at the other end and Deakin had their chance with a penalty.

Ben Deighan scored to tie up the scores again.

Tony Lemezina came on immediately after this and helped spark the Suns attack, but the defences held out.



Tony Lemezina: the veteran striker showed his magic for Suns

The hard work showed on the defences late in the game as they were both tiring and this helped to open up the game with both teams striving for a winner.

With only 30 seconds remaining, Lemezina showed some of his magic beating three players on his way to goal, only to see his shot pass the post by inches.

For Deakin Gaby Exposito and Anthony Barac had good games whilst Tony Giannasca was solid and showed good leadership in goals for the Suns and Gus Cerro dominated the midfield for them.

RIVERSIDE Oval was

the scene of what looks to be a regular fortnightly occurrence when Queanbeyan City Lions were trounced 7-0 by Monaro.

Hat-tricks went to both Lazar Simeonov and Danny Macor and Jimmy Baxter scored the extra goal.

Monaro coach Ian Heywood was happy that his team did what he wanted in scoring a lot of goals.

BURNS Club registered their first win of the season when they defeated University of Canberra 2-0 at the Uni's grounds.

Both goals came in the first half and both from set plays.

After 20 minutes a long throw was flicked on and

found Andrew Wallace to head in.

The second came from a corner with Josh Turco finishing off for Burns.

Steve Bryant, coach of the victorious Burns, said: "We played a lot better than previous weeks.

"Our game plan was a lot better than theirs.

"This was a prized scalp as University are one of the form teams.

"I was very happy with the way we came forward."

Rod Lynes on the other side was disappointed.

"I felt we were out-fought and outplayed", he said. Lynes was also unhappy about conceding two goals from set plays.

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**ASICS BIG MATCH UPDATE: ERICSSON CUP ROUND 29**

# Four game winning streak sees Marconi into Top Six

By Ted Simmons

THE left foot of Soceroo captain Alex Tobin caused double trouble as Marconi held on for a 1-0 win over Adelaide City in the re-scheduled national soccer league match at Marconi Stadium on Sunday.

The match had originally been set for a Saturday kick off but was changed to suit ABC TV coverage.

Tobin's leg deflected a shot from Marconi striker Francis Awaritefe into the goal seconds before halftime and he had to leave the field midway through the second half when he injured his ankle.

The result keeps Marconi in the playoff race and the Sydney side only

needs a point from the final round match against Northern Spirit next week to ensure a berth in the Top Six.

Marconi has won its last four matches in the charge to the finals.

"We're not out of the woods yet and still need another point but I didn't feel that we were really under pressure at any stage against City," said Marconi coach Frank Farina.

"The players stuck to the tactics of the last month and we didn't play pretty football because we would have been spanked."

Marconi began with three strikers in its search for maximum points while Adelaide City made its usual slow start.

Adelaide gradually

pulled back into the game with plenty of patience and had most of the play in the last 20 minutes of the opening half.

Just as the session seemed likely to end without a goal, Brendan Renaud took a long throw which Adelaide City failed to clear and Dominic Longo headed the ball towards Awaritefe who turned and fired his scoring shot.

"We were too open and exposed ourselves in defence," Adelaide City coach Zoran Matic said.

"Marconi had a lot of bodies there when we attacked but we're still in with a chance for the finals."

Adelaide again played controlled football throughout the second half and both goalkeepers were frequently called upon to keep their lines clear.

City had the first chance eight minutes into

the second session through the left foot of Travis Dodd but Marconi 'keeper Ante Covic proved equal to the task.

Marconi were fearless in their tackles with Mark Babic standing out in defence as they repelled the Adelaide attacks.

Longo, after a series of close calls, made one heavy tackle too many and the yellow card he received from referee Mark Shield will result in his suspension from next week's round.

Renaud hit the base of the Adelaide post with a 30m volley, while Carl Veart and Damian Mori provided further action for Covic.

Awaritefe ran himself into the ground as he covered both halves of the field but slowed in the final minutes to provide through balls for his team mates.



Francis Awaritefe: another impressive game for the Top Six bound Stallions

**MARCONI FAIRFIELD 1 (Awaritefe)**  
**ADELAIDE CITY 0**  
 Venue: Marconi Stadium  
 Man of the Match: Francis Awaritefe MARC

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## ASICS BIG MATCH UPDATE: ERICSSON CUP ROUND 29

# Plucky Falcons put champagne on ice at United

SYDNEY United's minor premiership celebration had to be put on hold for one week following their 0-0 draw with lowly Gippsland Falcons at Mobil Park on Sunday.

United were clear favourites to win the encounter and with one game in hand were expected to surpass South Melbourne for the number one spot on the national soccer league ladder.

With South's victory over Canberra, United must now win its final game against the Adelaide Sharks in order to finish on top and become Ericsson Cup minor premier.

United tried to stamp its authority early in the game with good runs and crosses from both flanks leaving the Gippsland defence rattled.

Falcons keeper Bojo Jevdjovic was tested for the first time at the 10th minute when he did well to save a Jacob Burns header from a corner kick.

Gippsland gradually regrouped, lifted their work rate and found cohesion to give United some tense moments.

United striker Mike Sterjovski broke the Falcons defence 22 minutes into the game but Jevdjovic held his shot

well.

Six minutes later, Gippsland replied when Will Hastie pinpointed Sasha Becvinovski in the crowded penalty area but with United keeper Mike Gibson off his line, the shot was deflected by defender Peter Bennett.

Gippsland's Brian MacNicol had the ball in the back of the net following a great volley from Lev Osman in the 39th minute but it was disallowed for interference on the Sydney keeper.

United stepped up the tempo, led by counter attacking moves from Velimir Kupresak who proved to be a thorn to

the home side.

Sydney United coach David Mitchell said his team's performance had been solid under difficult circumstances.

"I knew that it would be difficult down here and that Stuart Munro would be competitive. I'm sure that he wanted nothing better than to beat his old side," he said.

Gippsland have upset a number of teams in recent weeks and Munro was pleased with the side's improving performance.

"The start was not that great but we lifted and got a draw," he said.

"We have put in good efforts for the last four weeks and if we had played like this early in the season our current position could have been a lot better."

GIPPSLAND FALCONS 0  
SYDNEY UNITED 0  
Venue: Mobil Park  
Man of the Match: Velimir Kupresak SUTD

## No sad farewells, no tears goodbye in Perth

PERTH Glory farewelled its home ground of three years with a 3-1 victory over the Melbourne Knights in their NSL clash at Perth Oval on Sunday.

The win assured Glory of a finals berth and kept them in the running for a top two finish.

A crowd of 15,482 celebrated the last home game at Perth Oval before the Glory moved to Leederville Oval next season.

Glory's final will be played at West Australia's Australian Rules headquarters, Subiaco Oval.

Striker Alistair Edwards was the first to score in the 17th minute with a polished headed finish off a Robert Trajkovski prop.

The Knights, who were third from the bottom of the ladder, played like finals contenders and twice slipped Perth's defence but were unable to finish off.

Then in the 30th minute the equaliser came

PERTH GLORY 3 (Edwards, Despotovski, Circati)  
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1 (Reda)  
Venue: Perth Oval  
Man of the Match: Alistair Edwards PRTH

from a Michael Reda header.

The flamboyant midfielder sprinted to the corner to celebrate in front of the shed, the home of Perth's most vocal stand.

The move ignited both the crowd and the Glory players.

In the 34th minute, Glory striker Bobby Despotovski scored a controversial goal when he crashed into Knights keeper Martin John after heading a classy tip shot from midfielder Michael Garcia into the back of the net.

The Knights keeper lay on the ground for two minutes and later defied the advice of team doctor and his teammates and refused to leave the field.

The niggling continued around the ground after the incident until Ivan Jolic was given a red card.

Glory peppered the Knights' goal for the remainder of the half but were unable to score.

In the second half, John was replaced in goal by Zeljko Susa.

It took seven minutes of play for the Glory to score their third, through Gianfranco Circati, and put the issue beyond doubt.

Despite being down to 10 men, and with a stand-in goalkeeper guarding the net, the Knights refused to give in and matched Glory around the ground for the remainder of the half but were unable to bridge the gap.

# Arnie gets his point

by Phil Dando

NORTHERN Spirit could consider itself lucky to come away from Newcastle with a 1-1 draw in their Ericsson up clash at Breakers Stadium on Friday.

On a pitch made boggy by heavy overnight rain, a controversial penalty gave Spirit the lead in the 59th minute while the Breakers hit the woodwork twice and had to finish the game with ten men after substitute Chris Tancheski was carried off with a broken arm in the 77th minute, just seconds after the Breakers had made their third and final substitution.

Former Breaker Clayton Zane almost set up his strike partner Robbie Slater for a goal in the third minute but Breakers goalkeeper Bob Catlin managed to get a fingertip to the ball and divert it for a corner.

The Breakers first chance came in the 10th minute when left winger Brad Wieczorek ran through the defence but Spirit sweeper and coach Graham Arnold managed to get a last ditched block on the ball, then midfielder Mark Wilson

turned sharply in the Spirit box but steered his shot wide.

Spirit had another amazing let off in the 53rd minute, Haythornthwaite attempted to repeat his stunning overhead volley goal that sunk Marconi a couple of weeks ago but the ball smashed against Paul Henderson's left hand post and rebounded back into the grateful keeper's arms.

The Breakers made a substitution in the 58th minute bringing left sided defender Andy Roberts off and replacing him with Glenn Sprod.

The substitution proved disastrous as from the corner the ball was headed onto Sprod's hand and referee Matthew Breeze pointed to the penalty spot.

While there was no doubt that the ball connected with the hand of the defender, it could hardly have been construed as deliberate.

Midfielder Paul Bilokapic stepped up to give Spirit a lead from the penalty spot which they hardly deserved.

The Breakers equalised on 67 minutes when substitute

striker Tancheski sent fullback Rob Shannon away down the right where his cross to the far post was met by Haythornthwaite whose header went through the legs of the diving Henderson, cannoned off the chest of Arnold and bounced into the net.

Both sides settled for the draw with the Breakers down to ten men and Spirit happy to have earned a point to consolidate their place in the playoffs.

Spirit coach Graham Arnold apologised after the game for his side playing keep-ball.

"We came here to do a job and get a point," he said.

"I didn't want to be going to Marconi next week needing a point to be in the playoffs.

"However, now that we're there we've got the big match players to do the job and I'm really looking forward to the finals.

"I'll definitely take the chance to rest a few of my players next week."

Breakers coach Lee Sterrey was happy with his side's performance, as he has been all season.

"Although we were unlucky hitting the woodwork twice, John Buonavoglia should have scored with the first chance.

"I haven't really any argument with the penalty decision, it hit him on the hand but once again it was a tremendous effort by my lads to come back."

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 1 (Haythornthwaite)  
NORTHERN SPIRIT 1 (Bilokapic)  
Venue: Breakers Stadium  
Man of the Match: John Buonavoglia NEWC

## NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE



### Round 30: 25 April FINAL ROUND

#### Saturday 24 April

Canberra Cosmos v Gippsland Falcons  
Bruce Stadium 5.00pm

#### Sunday 25 April

Marconi Fairfield v Northern Spirit  
Marconi Stadium 5.00pm

Sydney United v Adelaide City  
Edensor Park 7.00pm

Adelaide City v Sydney Olympic  
Hindmarsh Stadium 7.00pm

Wollongong Wolves v Perth Glory  
Brandon Park 7.00pm

Melbourne Knights v Carlton  
Knights Stadium 7.00pm

Brisbane Strikers v Newcastle Breakers  
Suncorp Stadium 7.00pm

#### Bye: South Melbourne

NOTE: all information believed correct at time of going to press. Please check with daily press, your club or Soccer Australia for changes to scheduled kick offs.

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SYDNEY UNITED 0  
Venue: Mobil Park  
Man of the Match: Velimir Kupresak SUTD

# Olympic get back with Stanton own goal at Belmore

By Anthony Raineri

Sydney Olympic striker Pablo Cardozo broke an eight match goal drought but his team still could only manage a 2-2 draw with Wollongong in the National Soccer League tonight at Belmore Sports Ground on Sunday.

Cardozo's goal 45 seconds after the half-time break was a brilliant strike from the edge of the penalty area.

Chris Kalantzis crossed precisely from the left to the 26-year-old who chested the ball with his back to the goal, turned and struck a thunderous volley into the back of the net, giving Wolves keeper Daniel Beltrame no chance.

Cardozo, the leading NSL scorer with 18 goals, had not scored since netting against Sydney United on Valentines Day.

Olympic's lead lasted only 10 minutes with the Wolves levelling through midfielder Anthony Surjan after a goal-mouth scramble.

Goalkeeper George Bouhoutsos and defender Mi-

Fijian international Esala Masi gave the Wolves a 2-1 lead after a good run by midfielder Paul Reid.

Olympic levelled in the 75th minute through an own goal by defender Robert Stanton.

Olympic coach Branko Culina said his team showed a lot of character to come from behind.

"The problem is we don't show it all the time," he said. "Wollongong are a very

*"It was a quality game from two good sides - Olympic still have their fate in their own hands."*

lan Blagojevic both cleared shots off the line before one of the rebounds hit Surjan on the knee at point blank range and flew into the net.

Olympic almost regained the lead a minute later with Wollongong also having to clear a shot off the line.

From the next passage of play, half-time substitute and

Kalantzis crossed from the left and Stanton's attempted clearing header spun past his own keeper from close range.

Kalantzis had the best first half chance when his low drive from 12m out just missed the right of the post after a cross from Young Soccer Jason Culina, who scored against Saudi Arabia at the recent World Youth Championship in Nigeria.

Wollongong almost conceded a goal in the 38th when debutante defender Paul Dimch miskicked a clearance across the face of goal.

difficult opponent but I'm happy with the way we fought back.

"We didn't lie down."

Wollongong coach Nick Theodorakopoulos said the match was a great game of soccer.

"If there were 8,000 people out there, they will certainly all come back," he said.

"I like to believe we are not an easy team to beat.

"It was a quality game from two good sides.

"At the end of the day, Olympic still have their fate in their own hands."

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 2 (Cardozo, own goal)  
WOLLONGONG CITY WOLVES 2 (Surjan, Masi)  
Venue: Belmore Sports Ground  
Man of the Match: Steve Martin CARL





# ASICS BIG MATCH UPDATE: ERICSSON CUP ROUND 29

## South back on top with Cosmos win

by Alan Clark

IT WAS A subdued and anxious crowd that watched South Melbourne's final game of the season against bottom club Canberra Cosmos and needing a win to keep their quest for league leadership alive.

The win eventually came, but it was unconvincing - two defenders having combined to score when Nick Orlic headed in a deep far-post cross sent in by Con Blatsis with just eighteen minutes remaining.

The win guaranteed South either first or more likely second spot after the final round is played next week, and so a Finals game with the winner's prize being a direct

break) will do us any harm.

"We've been preparing for this Finals Series for 28 games.

"We'll just keep things ticking over.

"We'll play a couple of friendly games.

"With everyone fit I'd suggest that the competition for places will be pretty keen over the next three weeks."

Blatsis had made a welcome return to South's starting eleven after having missed much of this year's campaign because of a niggling groin and thigh injury.

But the neutral observer would have thought it was Canberra which was the more highly ranked side, at least as far as the endeav-

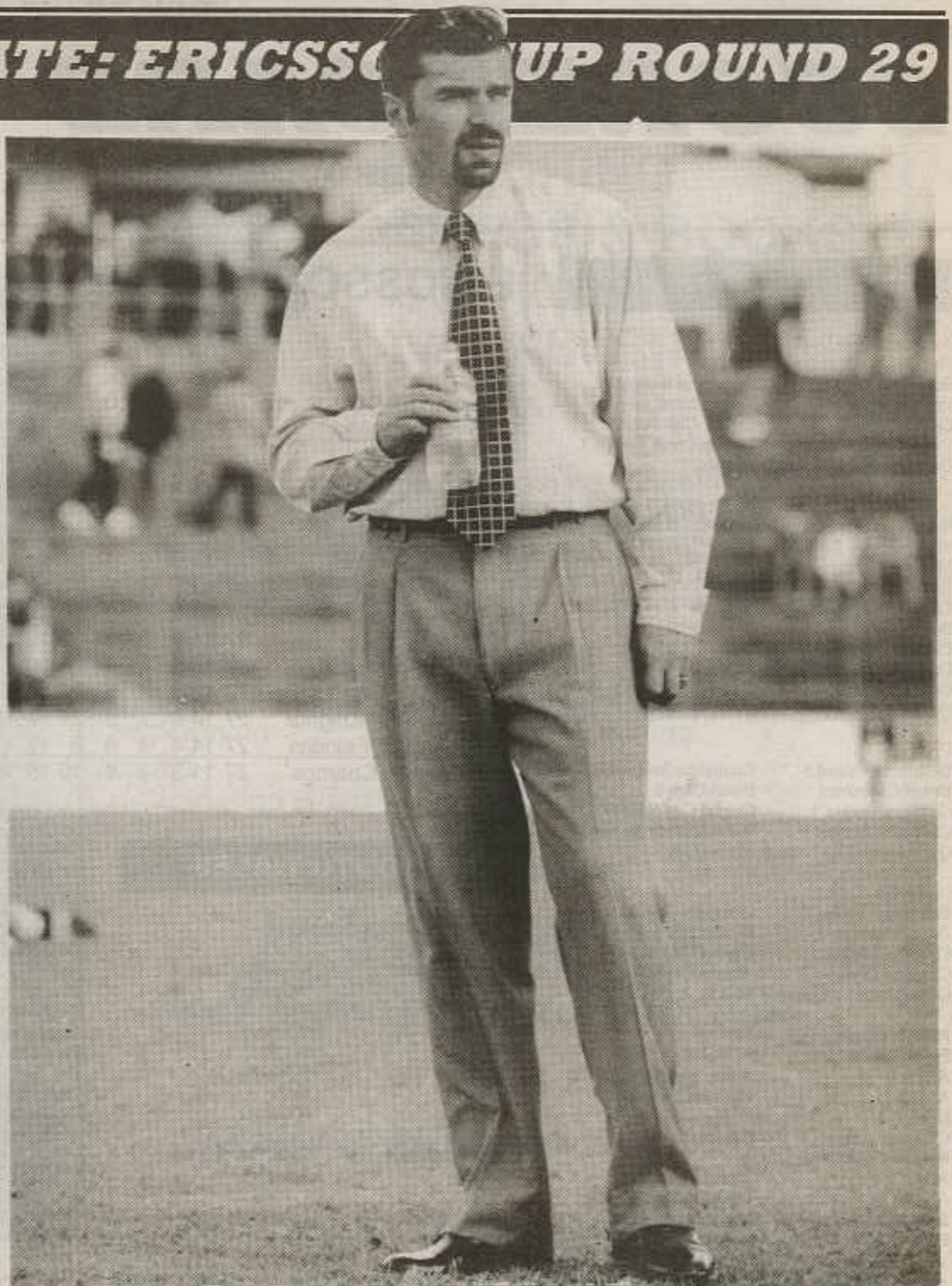
after just five minutes.

In a Giggs-esque run from the half-way line he made speedy progress down the left before laying a ball back to Michael Curcija.

Cosmos' giant goalkeeper Vilson Knezevic did well to hold the Olyroo's shot.

From then on until the break, Cosmos had at least the same level of control of the match. neither side found space in midfield and David Clarkson played his usual hard-running and ground-covering game to disallow any Cosmos midfielder time to contemplate.

But Cosmos did fashion some scoring chances - just before the half-hour Anthony Mag-



Ange Postecoglou: happy to be in his current position

**SOUTH MELBOURNE 1 (Orlic)  
CANBERRA COSMOS 0**  
Venue: Bob Jane Stadium  
Man of the Match: David Clarkson SMEL

path to the Grand Final.

Next week South has the bye, and then a further week off before their first Finals game, so there's two weeks to fill in before their next competitive action.

"We'll prepare as we normally do for a Finals Series," said South coach Ange Postecoglou after the game.

"We had a week off last year as well, and I've been around long enough in Finals Series to know what's required, and the coaching staff has, and there's enough players who know what's required.

"I don't think (the

our shown during this game.

Tom Sermanni has done much for Cosmos since his mid-season take-over, not the least being an inculcation of self-belief amongst the players.

In the opening thirty minutes Canberra had set out to weather the expected South storm and had successfully managed that.

It was now time to start to chase South Melbourne, and see if the notoriously fickle Bob Jane support turned against their own players.

Paul Trimboli had set up the best early chance

nacca was feed a through-ball only to be prevented at the last by a brave save at his feet by Michael Petkovic.

Goran Lozanovski - whose influence this game was less than is usual - set up Curcija after robbing returning Youth Team player Lindsay Wilson at the half-way line, scampering up the right, then setting a square ball into Curcija's path.

Sadly for South and their increasingly nervous support, Curcija's shot was wide.

Cosmos made a bright start to the second half - Magnacca then a spec-

tacular Peter Buljan overhead shot closely followed the re-start.

On the hour, Cosmos had a further two chances arriving within seconds of each other.

Gabriel Gonzalez put over after Buljan's cross floated in from the right, then Buljan himself shot over following a run up the left from Wilson.

But South hasn't been league leader for much of the season because of faint hearts, and lack of fight.

Even if it took two South players more notable for their chance-stopping than chance-creation Orlic and Blatsis combined to release a sense of relief rather than celebration amongst the home support.

John Anastasiadis who has been introduced late in South's most recent games came off the bench to the joy of the expectant crowd, and did enough in his quarter-match to keep the pressure on Cosmos, even to

the extend of almost pushing his way onto the score-sheet with a shot late in the match which went just over.

"They worked hard and made it difficult for us," Postecoglou said.

"We needed an early goal to really open them up.

"We had some chances early on which we didn't take, and once that happens it's always going to be tough."

Canberra coach Tom Sermanni was pleased

with the Cosmos performance, despite the loss.

"I thought in particularly the second half we created a few chances.

"With just a little more composure in front of goal, and a bit of luck, we may have taken it away.

"But it's always tough to come here and win.

"The difference between a team at the top is that they keep on going and they get rewarded for their persistence."

## NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE ROUND-UP With Roy Hay

THE Victorian Institute of Sport returned from its unbeaten tour of Malaysia to play Albury Wodonga at Grange Reserve on Saturday, turning in another fine performance to win by five goals to nil.

There were five individual scorers, Daniel Rainey, Paul Presti, Mark Tsiorlas, Denis Vucinic and David Terek.

This obviously took a lot out of the VIS lads because when they fronted up in the Latrobe Valley on Sunday to take on Gippsland Falcons there was nothing left in the tank.

Falcons won by three goals to nil scored by Alex Halikias, Billy Mitroulas and Ross Duckworth.

The VIS had a couple of players sent off, one right at the end for a second bookable offence.

The VIS now has five matches to play before the play-offs.

Carlton confirmed its favouritism to win the Southern title by beating Melbourne Knights four-nil on Sunday.

Tony Ouliaris scored the first of his two goals in 28 minutes and the Knights held Carlton to that strike until the interval. Ace Stojcevski made it two in 51 minutes, followed by a third from Serdar Pir.

Ouliaris completed the scoring in 77 minutes. Carlton thus finishes on top

of the Southern Division ladder.

Bulleen caused a big upset by defeating South Melbourne two-one at Bob Jane Stadium late on Sunday night.

Daniel Malina put the home team in front after 18 minutes, but Robert Ardesi equalised in 27 minutes and ten minutes later Nathan Thomas scored what proved to be the winner.

South Melbourne is secure in the top four, but the win gives Bulleen a chance of overhauling the Falcons or the Knights for the final play-off spot.

Northern Spirit had a two-one win away to Newcastle Breakers on Friday night.

Antonio Faria opened for the Spirit in 59 minutes.

Greg Owens seemed to have rescued a point for the Breakers with a goal in 71 minutes, but Elvic Olic scored the winner for the Spirit in the 84th minute.

Marconi Fairfield downed its Colts team by four goals to one.

Daniel Lentini shocked the Youth team by putting the Colts in front after only 8 minutes, but Vlado Zoric equalised four minutes later.

Mark Hagger scored his 22nd goal of the season in 27 minutes to make it two-one at the break.

Daniel Severino in 53 and Mauro van Cuylenberg after 73 minutes were the second

half scorers for the Youth team.

On Sunday Marconi played its catch up game from Round 16 against the Queensland Academy of Sport winning by two goals to one.

Victor Tomasevic and Devrim Huseyin scored for Marconi and Mark Bradley for QAS.

In its Round 30 game the QAS had better fortune beating Wollongong Wolves Colts by a goal to nil scored by Adam Webber.

Sydney United beat Northern Spirit Colts by four goals to nil, but the scorers were not available.

The Colts kept pressing but were hit hard on the

counter-attack.

NSWIS and the AIS played their Round 30 game a week early with the AIS running out winner by four goals to one. Grant Last opened in 19 minutes, and Kevo Gulesserian made it two in 29.

Tom Bajurin scored with a deflected shot in 75 minutes and Gulesserian got his second in 80 minutes.

There was time for young Mathew Rosier to score his first goal in the NYL in 87 minutes.

Mark Byrnes returned for the Institute following his trip to Nigeria with the Young Socceroos and Jeff van Stratten had a serviceable game in goals despite

the scoreline. The pick of the AIS team were Ljubo Milicevic, Gulesserian and John Cvetanovski.

ACTAS had Yosef Zamora to thank for a very late winner against Sydney Olympic Academy. The goal came in stoppage time and was the only one of the game.

Sydney Olympic confirmed second spot on the ladder with a four-two win over Wollongong Wolves at home. Adrian Cervinski scored twice and Lee Miot and Adrian Totaro scored the others. For the Wolves Michael Clare scored both goals.



# SCOREBOARD

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



## RAM SPORTS

### ACT

#### Premier League Div 1:

First Grade	Gungahlin Juventus 2
Belconnen United 5	Burns Club 2
Uni of Canberra 0	Capital City Suns 2
Canberra Deakin 2	Weston Creek Royals 3
Canberra Olympic 0	Queanbeyan City Lions 0
Queanbeyan City Lions 0	Monaro 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Belconnen United	2	2	0	0	6	2	6
Weston Creek Royals	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Monaro	2	1	1	0	8	1	5
Uni of Canberra	2	1	0	0	1	6	3
Canberra Olympic	2	1	0	0	1	3	3
Burns Club	2	1	0	0	1	2	3
Capital City Suns	2	0	1	0	1	2	3
Canberra Deakin	2	0	1	0	1	2	3
Gungahlin Juventus	2	0	1	0	1	3	6
Queanbeyan City	2	0	0	0	2	1	13

#### Under 23s

Belconnen United 5	Gungahlin Juventus 3
Uni of Canberra 1	Burns Club 0
Canberra Deakin 3	Capital City Suns 6
Canberra Olympic 2	Weston Creek Royals 1
Queanbeyan City Lions 0	Monaro 19

#### Under 19s

Belconnen United 2	Gungahlin Juventus 1
Uni of Canberra 3	Burns Club 0
Canberra Deakin 3	Capital City Suns 1
Canberra Olympic 2	Weston Creek Royals 5
Queanbeyan City Lions 3	Monaro 4

#### Premier League Div 2:

First Grade	White Eagles 2
ADFA 0	Canberra Defence 0
ANU 5	Tuggeranong 4
Belwest 2	Cooma 0
O'Connor Knights 3	

Reserve Grade	White Eagles 2
ADFA 0	Canberra Defence 1
ANU 4	Tuggeranong 1
Belwest 3	Cooma 0
O'Connor Knights 2	

#### ACT State League

Div 1	Belconnen United 3
Canberra City 2	Valley Blues 2
Ginninderra 6	Uni of Canberra 2
Burns 2	ANU 1
Monaro 2	

Div 2	Canberra City 0
Belconnen United 6	Valley Blues 3
Ginninderra 2	Uni of Canberra 0
Burns 2	ANU 1
Gungahlin Juventus 0	Tuggeranong 0

Div 3	Valley Blues 2
Uni of Canberra-2 2	ANU 1
Fyshwick 1	Belconnen United 3
Tuggeranong 2	Canberra City 0
Weston Creek Royals 7	

Div 4	Canberra City 0
Weston Creek Royals 2	ANU-1 1
Fyshwick 0	Canberra Olympic 6
Burns 2	Valley Blues 0
Uni of Canberra-2 0	Harmonie 0

ANU-2 1	
Masters	ANU 1
White Eagles 5	Uni of Canberra 4
Walley Blues 2	Belconnen United 1
Kambah Rovers 3	Canberra City 3
Tuggeranong United 2	

Youth:	
Southern Spirit 0	Radford 3 ft
Belsouth 0	Tuggeranong United 4

### ILLAWARRA

#### ILLAWARRA CREDIT UNION

#### PREMIER LEAGUE: Round 3

First Grade	Bulli 1
Kemblawarra 1	Northern United 3
Coniston Lions 3	Shoalhaven City 2
Port Kembla 8	Lysaghts 4
Fernhill 0	W'gong White Eagles 1
Wollongong Olympic 3	Woonona 0
Cringila Lions 2	
Round 2 catch-up match	
Woonona 0	White Eagles 4

### ERICSSON CUP 1998/99

	home	away	
	TPP	W D L	F A P W D L F A pts
1 South Melbourne	28 14 12 2	0 30 10 14 5	4 5 20 16 57
2 Sydney United	27 13 10 2	1 30 15 14 7	2 5 20 17 55
3 Perth Glory	27 15 10 2	3 35 14 12 6	2 4 24 20 52
4 Northern Spirit	27 14 9 2	3 19 10 13 5	2 6 17 24 46
5 Marconi Fairfield	27 13 8 1	4 30 18 14 6	2 6 22 29 45
6 Sydney Olympic	27 14 10 32	1 33 13 13 2	4 7 13 22 43
7 Adelaide City	27 13 9 3	1 28 8 14 3	3 8 10 18 42
8 Brisbane Strikers	27 13 7 4	2 23 14 14 4	2 8 17 31 39
9 Newcastle Breakers	27 14 6 5	3 19 15 13 4	2 7 8 17 37
10 Carlton	27 14 7 2	5 32 19 13 2	2 9 14 26 31
11 Wollongong City	27 13 5 4	4 24 19 14 3	3 8 18 30 31
12 Adelaide Sharks	27 13 5 4	5 24 18 13 2	2 9 11 25 27
13 Melbourne Knights	27 14 6 2	6 21 17 13 1	3 9 9 25 26
14 Gippsland Falcons	27 14 4 4	6 8 17 13 1	5 7 9 27 24
15 Canberra Cosmos	27 11 3 0	8 10 16 15 1	2 13 11 39 14

### NEW SOUTH WALES

#### SUPER LEAGUE - ROUND 12

##### FIRST GRADE

Central Coast 0	Macarthur Rams 4
	Williams 2
	Reid
	Whiddett

Bankstown City 1	Bonnyrigg 2
Lukic	Luff
	R Gomez

Fairfield Bulls 4	Ryde City 1
Borg 4	Sharpley

Parramatta Eagles 2	Leichhardt Tigers 0
Anderson	
Bard	

Eastern Suburbs 2	Blacktown City 3
Imaya	Holst
Miktakidis	Riches
	Angelucci

Sutherland Sharks 1	Canterbury 2
Hobbs	Bosevski
	Chistorifidis

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Macarthur Rams	11	8	1	2	23	10	25
Blacktown City Demons	11	8	1	2	23	11	25
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	12	8	1	3	31	20	25
Fairfield Bulls	11	7	2	2	25	16	23
Canterbury Marrickville	12	5	3	4	19	16	18
Leichhardt Tigers	12	5	2	5	20	21	17
Parramatta Eagles	11	5	1	5	18	11	16
Bankstown City Lions	12	5	1	6	26	22	16
Ryde City	12	2	4	6	14	20	10
Sutherland Sharks	12	2	2	8	13	32	8
Eastern Suburbs	11	2	1	8	15	29	7
Central Coast	11	2	1	8	9	28	7

#### UNDER 21 GRADE

Central Coast 0	Macarthur Rams 0
Bankstown City 1	Bonnyrigg 1
Fairfield Bulls 0	Ryde City 0
Parramatta Eagles 1	Leichhardt Tigers 0
Eastern Suburbs 0	Blacktown City 1
Sutherland Sharks 1	Canterbury 2

#### UNDER 18 GRADE

Central Coast 0	Macarthur Rams 2
Bankstown City 1	Bonnyrigg 1
Fairfield Bulls 0	Ryde City 0
Parramatta Eagles 1	Leichhardt Tigers 0
Eastern Suburbs 0	Blacktown City 1
Sutherland Sharks 1	Canterbury 2

#### BLACKTOWN DISTRICT

U/9 Div.1.	Blk. Workers 0
Riv/Schofields 1	C.S.I. 0
Doonside 4	Rooty Hill RSL 0
Kings Langley 5	Quakers Hill 0
Parklea 3	
Div.2.	
Lourdes 3	Prospect 1
Kings Langley 3	Blk. Premiers 0

Oakville 3	
Parklea 3	
Div.3.	

Rooty Hill RSL 2	
Doonside 3	
Quakers Hill 2	
Shalvey 7	
Div.4.	

Quakers Hill 1	
Good Shepherd 6	
Parklea 3	
Div.5.	

Plumpton/Oakhurst 7	
Mt.Druitt Sports 2	
Marayong Sport 2	

U/10 Div.1.	
Kings Langley 5	
Quakers Hill 1	
Minchinbury 2	

Div.2.	
Blk. St.Patricks 7	
Lourdes 5	
Parklea 4	

Div.3.	
Riv/Schofields 5	
Parklea 3	
Shalvey 5	

Div.4.	
Rooty Hill RSL 1	
Eastern Creek 2	
Div.5.	

Parklea B 2	
Good Shepherd 5	
Blk. Premiers 1	

U/11 Div.1.	
Kings Langley 6	
Rooty Hill RSL 4	
Blk. St.Patricks 1	

Div.2.	
Riv/Schofields 7	
Mt.Druitt Rangers 6	
Kings Langley 2	

Div.3.	
Blk. Workers 2	
Rooty Hill RSL 2	
Good Shepherd 3	

Div.4.	
Kings Langley 11	
Parklea 4	
Prospect 0	

Seven Hills 6	
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U/12 Div.1.	
Rooty Hill RSL 4	
Doonside 5	
Marayong Sport 2	

Div.2.	
Quakers Hill 6	
Kings Langley 2	
Parklea 10	

Div.3.	
Riv/Schofields 7	
Seven Hills 4	
Plumpton/Oakhurst 3	

Div.4.	
Oakville 10	
Minchinbury 1	
Quakers Hill 8	

Div.5.	
Prospect 0	
Parklea 1	
Rooty Hill RSL 0	

Good Shepherd 1	
Blk. St.Patricks 1	

Lourdes 1	
Eastern Creek 0	
Blk. Workers 0	
Mt.Druitt Rangers 0	

Prospect 0	
Oakville 0	
Kings Langley 0	

Riv/Schofields 0	
Seven Hills 0	
Quakers Hill 0	

Prospect 2	
Oakville 0	
Parklea 2	

Doonside 0	
Seven Hills 1	
Minchinbury 0	

Blk. Workers 0	
Plumpton/Oakhurst 1	
Quakers Hill 0	

Marayong Sport 1	
Doonside 1	

Plumpton/Oakhurst 0	
Quakers Hill 0	
Parklea A 0	

Prospect 2	
Blk. Premiers 1	
Parklea 1	

Plumpton/Oakhurst 2	
Rooty Hill RSL 0	
Quakers Hill 1	

Parklea 0	
Doonside 2	
Shalvey 2	

Lourdes 0	
Blk. Workers 0	
Blk. St.Patricks 0	

Quakers Hill 0	
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Parklea 3	
Plumpton/Oakhurst 1	
Blk. St.Patricks 2	

Blk. Workers 1	
Good Shepherd 1	
Rooty Hill RSL 1	

Marayong Sport 2	
Eastern Creek 1	
Blk. St.Patricks 0	

Prospect 0	
Parklea 1	
Rooty Hill RSL 0	

### NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

#### Northern Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
AIS	28	20	7	1	103	19	67
Sydney Olympic	27	20	3	4	89	30	63
Northern Spirit	27	19	2	6	65	23	59
Marconi Fairfield	27	17	5	5	77	23	56
NSWIS	28	17	3	8	69	33	54
Newcastle Breakers	26	16	5	5	58	28	53
Wollongong Wolves	26	16	2	8	79	31	50
QAS	27	15	2	10	71	42	47
Sydney United	27	11	4	12	54	48	37
Marconi Fairfield Colts	27	8	4	15	35	48	28
ACTAS	27	6	3	18	36	73	21
Northern Spirit Colts	27	4	3	20	23	100	15
Sydney Olympic Academy	28	3	5	20	26	99	14
Sydney United Colts	27	4	1	22	27	91	13
Wollongong Wolves Colts	27	1	3	23	15	137	6

#### Southern Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Carlton	23	16	4	3	66	26	52
South Melbourne	22	12	3	7	42	24	39
VIS	19	9	5	5	38	30	32
Gippsland Falcons	22	9	3	10	38	34	30
Melbourne Knights	23	9	3	11	44	48	30
Bulleen Inter Kings	20	8	3	9	28	35	27
Albury Wodonga	21	1	1	19	20	79	4

#### U/13 Div.1.

Parklea 2	Riv/Schofields
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# SCOREBOARD

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



## RAM SPORTS

Div.2 Reserves  
Oakville 1  
Seven Hills 2  
Marayong Sport 4  
Blk. St.Patrick's 9

Mt.Druitt Sports 0  
Lourdes 1  
Parklea 2  
Kings Langley 0.

All Age Div.3.1st Grade  
Marayong Sport 3  
Eastern Creek 5  
Good Shepherd 3  
Reserves.  
Marayong Sport 3  
Eastern Creek 4  
Shalvey Lourdes 6

Kings Langley 1  
Plumpton/Oakhurst 0  
Shalvey / Lourdes 1 Div.3  
Blk. Premiers 0  
Plumpton/Oakhurst 2  
Good Shepherd 0.

U/17-18 Girls Div.1:  
Rooty Hill RSL 1  
Plumpton/Oakhurst A 9  
C.S.I. 8

Oakville 1  
Plumpton/Oakhurst B 0  
Blk. Workers 1.

All Age Ladies Div.1.  
Marayong Sport 13  
Doonside 3  
C.S.I. 4

Blk. Premiers 2  
Blk. Pioneer / Oakville 2  
Quakers Hill 1.

All Age Ladies Div.2.  
Blk. St.Patrick's A 3  
Parklea 2

Seven Hills 1  
Blk. St.Patrick's B 0.

Youth League (Super)  
Blacktown DEMONS v Marconi : U/13: Won 5-0  
U/14: Lost 1-2 U/15: Won 2-0 U/16: Won 2-1.  
Youth League (Div. 1) BDSFA v : Illawarra U/13:  
Lost 1-3 U/14: Lost 0-1 U/15: Drew 1-1. U/16: Won 2-1.  
Junior League BDSFA v : Manly U/11: Won 4-1.  
U/12 : Won 2-0.  
Blacktown City Demons Super League v : Eastern  
Suburbs U/18: Won 1-0. U/21: Won 3-1. 1<sup>st</sup> Grade:  
Won 3-2.

### NORTHERN NSW

#### NBN SOCCER LEAGUE RESULTS ROUND 4 1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE

Hamilton Olympic v Edgeworth Eagles postponed

Highfields Azzurri 2 Weathertex Gunners 1  
East Maitland 0 Broadmeadow Magic 1  
Toronto Awaba 2 Wallsend Red Devils 2  
Adamstown Rosebuds 1 Belmont Swansea 1  
Cessnock Hornets 1 Weston Workers 3

RESERVE GRADE  
Hamilton Olympic v Edgeworth Eagles postponed

Highfields Azzurri 2 Weathertex Gunners 4  
East Maitland 0 Broadmeadow Magic 2  
Toronto Awaba 2 Wallsend Red Devils 1  
Adamstown Rosebuds 0 Belmont Swansea 0  
Cessnock Hornets 0 Weston Workers 0

UNDER 18'S  
Hamilton Olympic v Edgeworth Eagles postponed

Highfields Azzurri 1 Weathertex Gunners 1  
East Maitland 0 Broadmeadow Magic 3  
Toronto Awaba 2 Wallsend Red Devils 1  
Adamstown Rosebuds 6 Belmont Swansea 0  
Cessnock Hornets 3 Weston Workers 0

#### 2HD 2<sup>ND</sup> DIVISION RESULTS ROUND 5 1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE

Lambton Jaffas v Lake Macquarie postponed

Beresfield United v Phoenix Rangers postponed

Thornton Park 1 Mayfield United 2  
Dudley - Redhead 3 Tingira Eagles 3  
West Wallsend 5 Singleton Strikers 1  
Budgewoi Budgies 1 Medowie 1

RESERVE GRADE  
Lambton Jaffas v Lake Macquarie postponed

Beresfield United v Phoenix Rangers postponed

Thornton Park 1 Mayfield United 5  
Dudley - Redhead 2 Tingira Eagles 3  
West Wallsend 10 Singleton Strikers 0  
Budgewoi Budgies 2 Medowie 1  
Mayfield 2 Pasminco 1

UNDER 19'S  
Lambton Jaffas v Lake Macquarie postponed

Beresfield United v Phoenix Rangers postponed

Thornton Park 2 Mayfield United 2  
Dudley - Redhead 0 Tingira Eagles 0  
West Wallsend 4 Singleton Strikers 1  
Budgewoi Budgies 0 Medowie 0  
Mayfield 1 Pasminco 1

#### NEW FM SOCCER LEAGUE RESULTS ROUND 2

UNDER 13'S  
Highfields Azzurri 4  
Maitland 0  
Weston 2  
Adamstown Rosebuds v Cardiff postponed  
Oxley 5 Manning 4

UNDER 14'S  
Highfields Azzurri 3  
Maitland 0  
Weston 4  
Adamstown Rosebuds v Cardiff postponed  
Oxley 3 Manning 0

UNDER 15'S  
Highfields Azzurri 7  
Maitland 0  
Weston 6  
Adamstown Rosebuds v Cardiff postponed  
Oxley 0 Manning 7

UNDER 16'S  
Highfields Azzurri 2  
Maitland 1  
Weston 9  
Adamstown Rosebuds v Cardiff postponed  
Oxley 3 Manning 0

### QUEENSLAND

#### PREMIER LEAGUE

Ipswich Knights 2 Taringa Rovers 1  
Bundaberg waves 0 Mt Gravatt 3  
Brisbane Lions 6 Toowoomba United 1  
Gold Coast 0 Brisbane City 0  
Wynnum 1 Rochdale Rovers 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brisbane Lions	10	6	2	2	26	16	20
Rochdale Rovers	10	6	0	4	25	15	18
Taringa Rovers	10	5	2	3	17	9	17
Brisbane City	9	5	1	3	15	12	16
Ipswich Knights	9	5	0	4	14	12	15
Bundaberg waves	10	4	2	4	15	15	14
Mt Gravatt	9	3	2	4	18	20	11
Gold Coast	9	2	5	2	13	18	11
Wynnum	10	3	1	6	15	22	10
Toowoomba United	10	1	1	8	8	27	4

#### DIVISION 1 SOUTH

Inala City 0 Redlans United 1  
Souths United: bye  
Acacia Ridge 2 Olympic United 4  
Capalaba 3 Slacks Creek 2

#### DIVISION 1 NORTH

Pine Rivers United 3 Albany Creek 1  
North Star: bye  
Uni of Qld 0 Newmarket 2  
Mitchelton 2 Eastern Suburbs 2

### VICTORIA

#### VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

FIRST GRADE  
Altona Magic 2 Melbourne Raiders 2  
Port Melbourne 2 Preston Lions 3  
Springvale 1 Fawkner Blues 2  
Sunshine Georgies 0 Green Gully 2  
St Albans 2 South Dandenong 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Port Melbourne	11	8	2	1	27	10	26
Green Gully	11	7	2	2	25	14	23
Preston Lions	11	7	0	4	25	15	21
Melbourne Raiders	11	5	3	3	17	16	18
Bentleigh Greens	10	3	5	2	18	13	14
Bulleen Inter Kings	10	3	5	2	15	11	14
Fawkner Blues	11	4	2	5	16	16	14
St Alban Saints	11	4	2	5	15	18	14
Altona Magic	11	4	2	5	19	28	14
Springvale	11	3	3	5	14	14	12
South Dandenong	11	3	3	5	17	20	12
Altona East	10	3	2	5	11	17	11
Sunshine	11	2	2	7	12	25	8
Westvale	10	1	3	6	11	25	6

UNDER 21s  
Altona Magic 2 Melbourne Raiders 2  
Port Melbourne 2 Preston Lions 0  
Springvale 0 Fawkner Blues 1  
Sunshine Georgies 1 Green Gully 3  
St Albans 4 South Dandenong 2

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Sydney United's veteran keeper Mike Gibson

#### PREMIER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE

Bayswater City 1 Sorrento 2

Stirling Lions 0 Jonndalup 4  
Western Knights 3 Floreat Athena 2  
Kingsway Olympic 2 Inglewood Falcons 2  
Perth SC 0 Cockburn City 1

#### PREMIER LEAGUE SECOND GRADE

Bayswater City 0 Sorrento 5  
Stirling Lions 1 Jonndalup 3  
Western Knights 2 Floreat Athena 4  
Kingsway Olympic 0 Inglewood Falcons 3  
Perth SC 3 Cockburn City 1

#### PREMIER LEAGUE YOUTH GRADE

Bayswater City 2 Sorrento 2  
Stirling Lions 0 Jonndalup 0  
Western Knights 1 Floreat Athena 3  
Kingsway Olympic 1 Inglewood Falcons 1  
Perth SC 2 Cockburn City 0

### NATIONAL LEAGUE

Newcastle Breakers 1 Northern Spirit 1  
Haythornthwaite 67 Bilokapic pen 59  
Venue: Breakers Stadium  
Crowd: 5,015  
Referee: M Breeze  
Cautions: M Rudan (NS) 43

Adelaide Sharks 1 Brisbane Strikers 2  
Alagich 20 S McLaren 28, 31  
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium  
Crowd: 2,113  
Referee: W Dade  
Cautions: K Wehrman (BS) 62'; W Knipe (BS) 69'; A Westerwelt (AS) 75'

Marconi Fairfield 1 Adelaide City 0  
Awaritefe 43  
Venue: Marconi Stadium  
Crowd: 5,469  
Referee: M Shield  
Cautions: D Longo (MF) 66

Sydney Olympic 2 Wollongong 2  
Cardozo 46 Surjan 55  
og 72 Masi 57  
Venue: Belmore Oval  
Crowd: 4,360

#### Referee: B Hugo

Cautions: P Reid (WW) 1'; M Blagojevic (SO) 26';  
S Dimoski (WW) 44'; S Thomas (SO) 49'; N Carle  
(SO) 73'; A Surjan (WW) 90'

South Melbourne 1 Canberra Cosmos 0  
Orlic 71  
Venue: Bob Jane Stadium  
Crowd: 8,864  
Referee: G Connolly  
Cautions: L Wilson (CC) 15'; V Coveny (SM) 17'; C Blatsis (SM) 32'; D Burt (CC) 90

Perth Glory 3 Melbourne Knights 1  
Edwards 17 Reda 28  
Despotovski 34

Circati 52  
Venue: Perth Oval  
Crowd: 15,482  
Referee: E Lennie  
Cautions: M Reda (MK) 1'; M John (MK) 40'; A  
Deak (MK) 74'  
Red Card: I Kelic (MK) 38'

Gippsland Falcons 0 Sydney United 0

Venue: Mobil Park  
Crowd: 2,013  
Referee: J Blaney  
Cautions: C Canosa (GF) 18'; M Perinovic (GF) 58'; M Sterjovski (SU) 69'; J Burns (SU) 72'; W  
Ardone (SU) 81

### NAT YOUTH LEAGUE

VIS 5 Albury Wodonga 0  
South Melbourne 1 Bulleen Inter 2  
Gippsland Falcons 3 VIS 0  
Melbourne Knights 0 Carlton 4  
Bye v Albury Wodonga

Marconi Fairfield 4 Marconi Colts 1  
Northern Spirit Colts 0 Sydney United 4  
Wollongong Colts 0 QAS 1  
Sydney United Colts 1 NSWIS 3  
NSWIS 1 AIS 4  
Olympic Academy 0 ACTAS 1  
Sydney Olympic 4 Wollongong Wolves 2  
Marconi Fairfield 2 QAS 1  
Bye v AIS

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**Bruce Stadium**

**Saturday 24 April**

**KICK OFF 5.00pm**

**NOTE RE-SCHEDULED KICK OFF TIME**